Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-012
Friday
17 January 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-012 17 January 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegations Agree To Continue Talks in Mid-Feb *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Israeli Interim Self-Rule Plan Said Accepted *[AL HAMISHMAR 17 Jan]* 2
Rubinstein, Ben-Aharon Comment on Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 2
Jordan's al-Majali on Decision To Meet Again *[Amman TV]* 3
Further al-'Allaf Comment on Talks With Israelis *[Damascus Radio]* 3
Jordanians, Palestinians on Latest Set of Talks *[Amman Radio]* 3
'Ashrawi Sees 'Important Achievements' *[Amman Radio]* 4
'Ashrawi's 14 Jan Press Conference Reported *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Nusaybah: Talks Met Palestinian Expectations *[HA'ARETZ 17 Jan]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Widespread Searches, Curfews Follow Bus Attack *[Algiers VOP]* 5
'Arafat Meets Iraqi Minister Hammudi in Tunis *[INA]* 6
'Arafat Sends 'Message of Solidarity' to Castro *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
'Arafat Receives al-Qadhdhafi Message *[Algiers VOP]* 6
Papers Comment on Political Events in Algeria 6
Benjedid 'Abandoned' People *[AL-NAHAR 13 Jan]* 6
'Cancellation of Democracy' Seen *[AL-QUDS 14 Jan]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Boudiaf Notes Need To Fill 'Power Vacuum' *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Calls on Citizens To Maintain Order *[Algiers TV]* 8
State Council's Haroun on Human Rights, Army *[Paris TV]* 9
Explains Attitude Toward FIS *[Paris TV]* 10
Ministry Decries 'Patronizing' Foreign Statements *[Algiers Radio]* 10
FIS, FLN, FFS Denounce Higher State Council *[Algiers Radio]* 10
FLN's Mehri Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 11
FLN Official Says Mehri Statement Not Binding *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Parties React To Higher State Council Formation *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Commentary Views Creation of Higher State Council *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Press Cited on Reaction to Political Events *[APS]* 12
Press Views FLN Stand on State Council *[APS]* 13

Egypt

Mubarak Meets Indian External Affairs Minister *[MENA]* 13
Parliamentary Delegation Returns From Libya *[MENA]* 14
Mubarak Receives Canadian Defense Minister *[Cairo TV]* 15
Interior Minister—State To Confront 'Extremists' *[MENA]* 15

Libya

UTA Suspects Agree To French Court Appearance *[Paris International]* 15
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Bosnia-Hercegovina Envoy *[JANA]* 15
JANA Commentator on Dumas Statements *[JANA]* 15

Mauritania

'Incidents' Mark Presidential Election Campaign *[Paris International]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir, Prime Minister Receive Niger Premier *[WAKH]* 17

Kuwait

Defense Minister on U.S., European War Materiel
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 15 Jan] 17
Prime Minister Holds Talks With Niger Counterpart *[KUNA]* 17

Qatar

Envoy Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message, Departs *[WAKH]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Japanese Trade Minister Arrives in Riyadh on Visit *[Tokyo KYODO]* 18
Tokyo's Refinery Production To Rise *[Tokyo KYODO]* 18
Riyadh To Boost Oil Output *[Tokyo KYODO]* 18
King Fahd Received Message From Kuwaiti Amir *[Riyadh Radio]* 19
Finance Minister Discusses Government Development Plan *[SPA]* 19

United Arab Emirates

Japan's Watanabe Discusses Oil Cooperation *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 20
Desalination Technology Offered *[WAKH]* 20

Republic of Yemen

Invitation to Multilateral Talks in Moscow Received *[Sanaa Radio]* 20

IRAQ

Saddam Speech Marks War Anniversary *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
National Assembly Special Session Recalls War *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Officials Cable Saddam on Gulf War Anniversary 24
National Assembly Awards People's Medal to Saddam *[INA]* 25
Defense Ministry Moves To Fortified Building *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 25
Fliers Distributed on Start of 'Uprising' *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 25
Government Attack in Marshlands Repulsed *[Kuwait Radio]* 26
Popular Forces Repel Army Attacks in Basra *[IRNA]* 26
Kurds To Halt Talks With Regime, Elect Leader *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 26

ISRAEL

Shamir Discusses Future Elections, Peace Process *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Jan]* 27
Meets With Degel Hatora, Seeks Jun Elections *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Comments on Latest Round of Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Moledet Decides To Quit Government 'At Once' *[Jerusalem TV]* 29

Peres Ready To Discuss Election Date With Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Labor: Government 'Unworthy of Confidence' *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Arens on Early Elections, Future of Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Minister Magen Discusses Possible Election Dates *[Tel Aviv TV]* 30
Levi Urges Continued Commitment to Autonomy Plan *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
Peace Talks Delegation Returns, Views Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Dozens of Settlers Return to West Bank Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Leave Yad Ya'ir at Army's Request *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
1 SLA Soldier Killed, 1 Wounded by Bomb *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31

JORDAN

Foreign Minister Discusses Moscow Talks *[Amman Radio]* 32
'Arabiyat Stresses Support for Libya *[Amman Radio]* 32

LEBANON

Buwayz on Libyan Cooperation on Lockerbie Issue *[VOL]* 33
UNIFIL Agrees To Army Deployment Plan *[VOL]* 33
Hizballah Leader Meets Prime Minster Karami *[Beirut Radio]* 33
South Lebanese Army Shells Kafr Tibnit 16 Jan *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
Israeli, SLA Forces Search, Interrogate Citizens *[VOL]* 33

SYRIA

U.S., EC Urged To Curb Israeli 'Intransigence' *[Damascus Radio]* 34

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibollah Orders Return of Zaher Shah Property *[AFP]* 35
Council of Ministers Views National Situation *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Kabul Planning Increased Trade With Iran *[AFP]* 36

Bangladesh

Rahman Hopes For Negotiations on Burmese Border *[Dhaka Radio]* 36

India

Defense Minister Notes 'Openness' in U.S. Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Further on Defense Cooperation *[AFP]* 36
Army 'Overstretched' in Countering Insurgency *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Rao Scores Pakistan's 'Orchestration' on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 37
State To Give Russia 150 Million Rupees in Aid *[ISI]* 37

Iran

President: Algerian Events 'Political Scandal' *[IRNA]* 38
Majles Speaker Scorns Global Silence on Algeria *[IRNA]* 38
Press Reviews Algerian Developments *[IRNA]* 38
Commentary Views Problems Facing Peace Talks *[Tehran International]* 39
Editorial Comments on 'Pan-Turkism' Trend *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 2 Jan]* 40
Two Oil Workers Executed Following Strike *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 41

Pakistan

Dispute With France Over Nuclear Deal Settled *[AFP]* 41
Relations With U.S. 'Riding Rough Weather' *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Prime Minister on Algeria, Fundamentalism, Bhutto *[AFP]* 42

PRC Military Group Meets Joint Staff Head *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
India's Allegation of Terrorism Rejected *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
West European Reportage on Nawaz Sharif Visit *[cross-reference]* 43

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Receives Message From Iranian President *[IRNA]* 43
Premadasa Responds to Message *[Tehran Radio]* 43

Iraq

Saddam's speech marking the anniversary of the "30-state aggression" was broadcast by Baghdad radio, which also reported a National Assembly session to mark the anniversary, as well as messages to Saddam from senior officials. The Defense Ministry moved to a fortified building, according to the clandestine Voice of the People of Kurdistan.

Algeria

Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, was interviewed by Algiers radio on an aircraft en route to Algiers. His address to the nation after arrival was broadcast by Algiers television. Mohamed Ali Haroun, another Higher State Council member and the former human rights minister, told Paris television that he would resign if the Army tries to pressure him. In a later interview with the same source, he explained his views on the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The National Liberation Front, the FIS, and the Socialist Forces Front all termed the establishment of the Higher State Council "unconstitutional," according to Algiers radio, which also reported on contacts between leaders of the three parties. Reactions by political party leaders to recent events were reported by the radio, while APS summarized press comment.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation agreed to resume talks in mid-February, Jerusalem radio reported. The Palestinians accepted an Israeli plan for interim self-rule, according to 'AL HAMISHMAR, which nevertheless noted a Palestinian interpretation of the plan. Palestinian spokeswoman 'Ashrawi told Amman radio she saw "important achievements" in the recent round of talks, while Sari Nusaybah told HA'ARETZ the talks met Palestinian expectations.

Israel

The Moledet party decided to leave the government coalition "at once," the party's chairman told Jerusalem television. Shamir, noting that his coalition is only one Knesset vote short of a majority, ruled out any deal with the Labor Party in the wake of two right-wing parties' decision to leave the government; interviewed by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Shamir maintained that "the peace process will continue" despite uncertainty over his government's composition, and told Jerusalem radio that an election campaign would not affect the "orderly handling" of negotiations with the Arabs. The delegation to peace talks returned, with members saying that the government crisis "will not necessarily affect the peace process," the radio disclosed. Opposition leader Shim'on Peres, meanwhile, urged that elections be called "as soon as possible," Jerusalem radio reported.

Libya

Two suspects accused of the UTA aircraft bombing said they are willing to appear in a French court, according to officials cited by Paris international radio.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegations Agree To Continue Talks in Mid-Feb

TA1601172792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] The joint meeting between the Israeli delegation and the plenum of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation ended in Washington without the parties' reaching agreement on the venue of the next round of talks.

Our correspondent in Washington 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Jordanians proposed holding another two-week round of talks in Washington, with the negotiations later being moved to Europe. The Israelis suggested a short round of talks in Europe to be followed by negotiations in the Middle East. In the absence of any agreement, it was only decided to conduct the next round of talks in the middle of February.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 16 January adds: "The Jordanians suggested 10 February as the date for the next round of talks. Israel replied that it must consider this, but it did not reject the proposal out of hand."]

Israeli Interim Self-Rule Plan Said Accepted

TA1701080092 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Palestinian delegation has accepted Israel's proposals regarding interim self-administration, but considers them a means "to ensure an orderly and peaceful transfer of authority from Israel" to the administration the Palestinians have proposed for the interim period "and to create the appropriate conditions for the talks that will evolve on the final status of the occupied Palestinian lands."

This is stated in a document the Palestinians gave the Israeli delegation in Washington. The main part of Israel's proposals—called ISGA [acronyms here and elsewhere printed in English] for "Interim Self-Governing Arrangements"—deals with a controlled transfer of Civil Administration authorities to the Palestinians, including police authorities. Our correspondent notes that the ISGA plan was prepared by Israel long before the current Baker peace initiative and was presented to Palestinian figures in the territories even before the delegation was formed. The Americans also have accepted the wording and included the term in their own documents. Now, as noted above, it has been mentioned in the Palestinian document handed to the Israeli delegation and has been termed a stage toward the transfer of power to the Palestinian administration, called PISGA. Palestinian delegation spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi mentioned this term in an interview on Jordanian Television last night, but did not state that this originated as an Israeli plan.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, noted that the Palestinians want to place the settlements on the agenda now, while the Israelis oppose this. The Palestinian document explains that the settlements undermine the very foundations of the Palestinian plan and run counter to the basis of the political process, but does not contain a threat to quit the talks.

Rubinstein, Ben-Aharon Comment on Talks

TA1601205192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Ya'ir Stern]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Two formal meetings were held at the State Department today. The first, between the Israeli delegation and the Jordanian-Palestinian plenum, dealt mainly with procedural matters. [passage omitted]

In the meeting with the Jordanian delegation, which ended a few minutes ago, bilateral issues were discussed. Each side presented its outlook on the future peace treaty, and the two countries' legal advisers presented their sides' interpretations of UN Resolution 242 on withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967. Naturally, each side had its own interpretation. After the meetings, Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein recapped:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] There has been no final agreement on the location of the next round or on the details of the other issues. Naturally, we hope very much to be able to resume the talks next month, but we do not have a definite date as yet.

As for the talks with Jordan, we discussed the vision of peace between us, the possible components of future peace between us, and our hope that by the end of the negotiations we may, God willing, attain a peace treaty. [end recording]

As expected, the talks with Syria and Lebanon ended without results. The Israeli delegates had the feeling that the Lebanese, out of fear of the Syrians, were making no progress, while the Syrians had evidently moved aside to wait and see what progress would be made in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Otherwise, the delegates could not understand how it was possible that after a week or so of waiting, the Syrians agreed to hold only one meeting every day, declining the Israeli request to hold two meetings a day. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Stern] Do you feel optimistic regarding the prospects of the Washington talks with the Arab countries? Can you see light?

[Ben-Aharon] I think I can; we must not conclude that there is no chance. Since we are still only at the beginning of the road, we must not lose patience. An opening, a breakthrough, may be waiting for us at some unexpected

spot. In any event, we have to go on talking with them until we feel we have explored every possibility. [end recording]

Jordan's al-Majali on Decision To Meet Again

JN1601211592 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Murid Hammad report from Washington]

[Excerpt] Arab and Israeli peace negotiators have agreed to hold another round of talks on the 10th of February. The venue is, most probably, Washington, but it will have to be approved by the Israeli Government. Today, a general meeting of the three delegations—the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli negotiators—met in an enlarged meeting for 40 minutes, and that was followed by another meeting between the Israeli and Jordanian delegations on the Jordanian track. Dr. al-Majali, the head of the Jordanian delegation, summed up the meetings and said that the two sides have also exchanged their visions of peace.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] We have had our session this morning. We conducted it. And we exchanged items of agenda. And we expressed our view of the vision of peace, and the Israelis did the same. We expressed our views about [UN Resolution] 242, about Geneva Convention, and they expressed theirs. We have profound differences in these essential matters, which they have not resolved. We hope that in the next round we will be able to resolve them, if the other side will respond. And we decided that we will meet in February, and we hope that we will be coming to Washington, because change of Washington has to be taken by a decision of mutual consent, which has not been taken. So far, we are coming back to Washington in our third round of negotiations.

[Unidentified reporter] Have the Israelis agreed to come back to Washington?

[Al-Majali] They have agreed to be on the time in February, but they are waiting for their own leaders' to decide about the location.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Majali] I think there is some progress, but let us not make it too big. So we hope that in the future [there] will be more progress, but this time, still there is a profound difference. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further al-'Allaf Comment on Talks With Israelis

JN1601145392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the Washington peace talks, has stressed that the outcome of the three rounds of talks with the Israeli side, beginning with Madrid and including the two most recent rounds in Washington, demonstrate that Israel handles the talks with the mentality of someone who does not want the current peace process to succeed. [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf added that it seems that the purpose behind this Israeli behavior is to make the Arabs leave the talks as an expression of their anger over this behavior. Then the Israelis could say to the world that the Arabs are responsible for the obstruction of the talks. [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf spoke about many facts and incidents demonstrating Israel's nonserious approach to the peace process. He referred to the method of insisting on terminating the third round of talks, even though the total number of meetings held within this round did not exceed three and these meetings did not last more than 10 hours. He said: We regret to say that the Israelis did not show any serious interest in making the peace process a success or in achieving positive results, whether in terms of the time they had allotted to the peace talks or in the manner with which they approached these very important talks.

Al-'Allaf added: Most of the time, their discussions dealt with procedural matters, regardless of whether these matters were real or fabricated. This resulted in wasting a lot of time rather than discussing important issues, such as the venue, the time frame for each round, and other peripheral issues. Al-'Allaf said: Even during those few times when the talks dealt with substantive issues, such as the international resolutions and the principles upon which the peace process is based, the Israelis resorted to intentional distortion of the contents of these resolutions and principles. This has revealed their true intentions and what they have in store for the peace process.

Al-'Allaf added: During the current talks and those held in the past, we have sensed that the Israelis are actually not serious about the peace process, and that all they wanted from the start is to have the Arabs sit and speak directly with them. Al-'Allaf added: It is completely unacceptable for the Arabs, the cosponsors of the conference, and the international community to reduce the peace process to an operation of just sitting around a negotiating table while refraining from entering into any serious discussion of what should be done to establish real peace.

Jordanians, Palestinians on Latest Set of Talks

JN1601141592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[George Tarif report from Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] After one and a half hours, the three delegations—Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli—will hold a general meeting to be followed by a Jordanian-Israeli meeting, the third in that particular track.

Sources within the three delegations stressed that the general meeting will discuss procedural issues, and in

particular, decide on the venue for the next round of bilateral negotiations, which are likely to take place in Washington next month.

Sources in the Jordanian delegation said the third round of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will deal with continuing talks on the agenda. Political analysts and observers here think that there are two things that have had an adverse impact on the talks held during the second round of Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli talks. The first stumbling block was Israel's concentration on discussions of procedural issues with no negotiations on substantive topics, in addition to the difference in viewpoints on the agenda.

The second reason is the short time allotted for the negotiations, especially as no party has held more than three rounds of talks with the Israeli teams; this is not enough time to discuss essential topics. In addition, there were the Israeli teams' efforts to present marginal issues, such as their declaration that they are going to leave, on the one hand, and their demand to move the negotiations from Washington to the Middle East or a nearby area, on the other.

These sources said the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations have taken place in a calm and serious atmosphere, during which discussions dealt with several topics on the agenda proposed by both sides.

Sources in the Palestinian delegation emphasized that the main point of disagreement on the agenda was represented by the Israeli delegation's refusal to discuss the issue of settlements. The Palestinian delegation gave the Israeli delegation an opportunity to study this issue and respond. The Palestinian delegation briefed the Israeli delegation on its views concerning the transitional stage.

As for the Syrian, Lebanese, and Israeli teams, the heads of these delegations announced that no worthwhile progress was made. The Israeli teams, which took part in bilateral negotiations with the Arab delegations, are due to leave Washington today.

Finally, this round of bilateral talks has marked by the meeting held between heads of the Arab and Israeli delegations and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who reiterated U.S. support, represented by its President and its secretary of state, for the peace process in the Middle East and the firm U.S. stance vis-a-vis the talks.

'Ashrawi Sees 'Important Achievements'

JN1701105792 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Palestinian spokeswoman to Arab-Israel peace talks, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, affirmed that the second round of talks ended with two important achievements to Palestinians. She said one of these achievements is Israelis had to sit with Palestinians in equal footing for the first time in history. She said the second achievement is that Palestinians presented their own agenda, particularly a proposal which would form a basis to self-rule in the occupied Arab lands and highlighting discussion of settlement issues and violations of human rights by Israel in the occupied Arab lands.

'Ashrawi's 14 Jan Press Conference Reported

JN1601191692 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, has affirmed that negotiations on the transfer of power must be preceded by an immediate halt to all Israeli practices in the occupied territories, especially settlement building. At a press conference at the Palestinian delegation's place of residence on 14 January, 'Ashrawi said that the inhabitants cannot be dissociated from the land. She stressed the need to define the framework within which the transitional phase should proceed, and to set legal and legislative terms of reference. She emphasized the need to implement international laws. 'Ashrawi affirmed that these issues are interrelated at the transitional phase and cannot be dealt with arbitrarily or selectively, and that Israel cannot be allowed to turn the transitional phase into merely a form of limited self-rule that applies to the inhabitants but not to the land and resources.

Responding to a question regarding the topics that are being raised by the Palestinian delegation during the negotiations, 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian delegation has actually begun to propose two lines for two basic issues. The first issue is related to overall Israeli practices in the occupied territories, especially the deportation issue, and the need to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories. The second issue deals with the need to halt Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories and to stop the allocation of funds from the Israeli Government's budget for settlement activities.

On the question of how the Palestinian delegation would react if the U.S. Congress agrees to grant loan guarantees to Israel, 'Ashrawi said: This is a political matter for the PLO to decide, given that it is the sole party entitled to make decisions and approve agreements on behalf of the Palestinian people. She added: If these guarantees are granted to Israel, the issue would require a reconsideration of the Palestinian position. This would constitute a violation, on the part of the United States, of its declared policy and the requirements of international legitimacy. She said that the allocation of $1 billion from the official Israeli budget for settlement activities in the occupied territories effectively means the annexation of these territories to Israel by linking them directly to the Hebrew state's budget.

Regarding Israel's acceptance of the two-track principle for negotiations, 'Ashrawi said that this is a concession on the part of Israel, which at the beginning tried to discover to what extent the Palestinian delegation is ready to accept Israel's terms and pressure, which basically aim at forcing the delegation into engaging in

negotiations from a position of weakness. She added that the unwavering Palestinian and Jordanian position regarding the basic issues, refusal to submit to Israeli terms, and declining to engage in negotiations on the basis of asymmetry and inequality, led to convincing the Israelis that they cannot tamper with the bases of this process. She deemed the establishment of the principle of the independent Palestinian-Israeli track as the only negotiatory framework for the Palestinian issue, an important achievement.

As for a timetable for the negotiations, 'Ashrawi said that one was set by the letter of invitation and the agreements concluded among the various parties. She said we have a year to wind up the first phase of negotiations, after which the transitional phase will begin immediately. She added that at the beginning of the third year, the negotiations on the final status or the permanent solution will begin. The transitional phase will not last more than five years.

'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians are committed to this timetable, and that Israel cannot alone dictate the timetable and the process of negotiations. 'Ashrawi called on the two cosponsors of the conference to boost the peace process and not to allow Israel to procrastinate.

Responding to a question on the Israelis' proposal to grant self-rule to the Palestinians, 'Ashrawi said that this proposal is no secret, because it had been declared in the Camp David agreements. She said Israel has based its entire position on the Camp David agreements and the self-rule plan, with amendments which made it void of content and which have turned it into a limited self-rule involving the population, but not land and resources. She added: We will present our plan. It is in line with international will and closer to the U.S. perception, as stated in the letter of assurances as regards the transfer of power and the Palestinians' exercise of their right to self-determination, and all that is of interest to them.

Answering a question regarding contacts held with the Palestinian delegation concerning attendance at the multilateral conference, scheduled to be held in Moscow at the end of this month, 'Ashrawi affirmed that the negotiating team is authorized only to hold bilateral negotiations, and that it is not authorized to engage in multilateral negotiations. She added that this matter is part of the jurisdiction of the Palestinian leadership, which has entrusted personalities from outside the delegation with discussing this issue with concerned parties.

'Ashrawi added that Palestinian participation in the multilateral negotiations is for the Palestinian leadership to decide. She affirmed that the Palestinians want the terms of their participation in the Moscow conference to be changed. This is because the terms of participation that have been imposed on them at the bilateral talks are unfair and must not apply to the multilateral talks. 'Ashrawi called for a unified Arab stance regarding participation in the Moscow conference. She also called for achieving tangible progress at the Washington negotiations before engaging in these talks.

Nusaybah: Talks Met Palestinian Expectations

TA1701092992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 92 p A4

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In contrast to the gloomy political feeling among the Palestinian delegates at the Grand Hotel in Washington, Dr. Sari Nusaybah says that he is very pleased. According to him, the latest round of talks met 90 percent of his expectations of the current stage of talks.

"We managed to get into the room, resolve several procedural problems, present our agenda to the Israelis, accept their agenda offer, and raise the issue of settlements," Nusaybah says. According to him, these were his and his colleagues' main expectations of the current round of talks, and they have been fully met.

"For us the question is not what the other side is doing, but what we will do. Our commitment to the process is a commitment to the principles of peace," he said. Referring to the deportees from the territories, he said: "We have agreed that we must not allow the other side to divert us from the task we have to carry out. You must be the master of your own decisions."

Concerning the issue of the guarantees to Israel, Nusaybah said: "If the Americans give Israel what they want without any impact on settlement, we on our part will tell ourselves that they are not serious about the peace process. I see no logic in continuing the negotiations if such a situation occurs."

According to him, "people today are speaking in terms they have not used in the past—even within the Likud. The current negotiations may collapse and others may start, but the important thing is that the negotiations rely on additional elements in the peace process."

Palestinian Affairs

Widespread Searches, Curfews Follow Bus Attack

LD1601121292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Excerpt] In the occupied homeland, seven settlers were wounded during an armed attack against a bus and a car belonging to the settlers, north of Ramallah. A curfew was imposed in Balata and nine villages north of Ramallah. Fire bombs were thrown at military positions in Janin and the Jabaliyah camp.

In response to Call No. 78 of the National Unified Command of the Intifadah, shops opened their doors today until the evening hours. The situation in the field in the last 24 hours was marked by a remarkable escalation in the activities of the intifadah: The sons of our mujahid people have been able to inflict heavy human and material losses.

Israeli military sources have admitted that a machine gun and firearm attack took place last night against a bus and car belonging to the hordes of settlers which were passing near the village of 'Ayn Sinia, north of Ramallah, and on their way to the Shilo settlement. The attack resulted in the wounding of seven settlers, including an Israeli soldier.

Following the incident, the forces of occupation imposed a curfew on nine villages: Tur Mus'iyah, the Jalazun camp, Jifna, Sinjil, Dur al-Qari'a, Silwad, the Mazra'a al-Sharqiyah, al-Mighaiyr, and Abu Flah. The forces of occupation also closed all the eastern villages, and declared the area north of Ramallah a closed military zone.

Since last night, large military reinforcements, accompanied by settlers, and supported by military helicopters, have been engaged in a large-scale military campaign involving all the villages, mountains, and fields. These forces stormed the villages and launched a campaign of random arrests in the ranks of the sons of our people.

Soon after hearing about the attack, a group of settlers went to the home of brother Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem, where they staged a demonstration. Then the settlers staged a demonstration outside the home of terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir. Reports from the villages of northern Ramallah said that hordes of settlers committed aggression against the citizens, stormed homes, and destroyed property in these villages. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Meets Iraqi Minister Hammudi in Tunis

JN1601150992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tunis, 16 Jan (INA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat received here today Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, member of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command [of Iraq], and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed developments in the Arab arena, particularly the Palestine question in light of the continuation of the valiant popular intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, and the struggle for the sake of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stressed the need for the international community to lift the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, based on the international laws which respect peoples' rights to live in dignity and freedom.

'Arafat Sends 'Message of Solidarity' to Castro

JN1601181192 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent a message of solidarity to Cuban President Fidel Castro, in which he affirmed the solidarity of the PLO and the Palestinian people with the friendly Cuban Government and people.

Brother Salah Salah, special envoy of brother president Abu- 'Ammar, accompanied by brother 'Imad al-Jada', the Palestinian Ambassador to Cuba, delivered the message for the Cuban president during their meeting in Havana the day before yesterday with Vice President Jose Ramon Machado Ventura. Ventura asked brother Salah Salah to convey President Fidel Castro's greetings to brother president Abu-'Ammar, and thanked him for his stand of solidarity in the face of the conspiracies against Cuba.

Ventura reaffirmed his country's firm stand in support of our people's national and just struggle to regain all of their inalienable national rights; foremost of which are the rights to repatriation and self-determination, as well as the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat Receives al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD1601182892 Algiers Voice of Palestine 1702 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] The brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a message from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the current developments in the area. The message was delivered by the charge d'affaires of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah embassy in Tunis during his audience with the brother president yesterday.

Papers Comment on Political Events in Algeria

Bendjedid 'Abandoned' People

TA1501195492 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Jan 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "May God Protect Algeria"]

[Text] The crisis in Algeria took a serious turn with the resignation of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who abandoned his responsibility and threw his people into utter confusion at a time when they are most in need of a leader who can steer the ship of state to shelter. The vacancy of the presidency opens the way to instability and the intervention of the military in determining the country's destiny. This decision comes in the wake of the first round of the Algerian parliamentary elections, in which the Islamic Salvation Front won the majority of votes, and a few days before the second round. The elections were democratic, but the other parties could not tolerate the success of the Islamists. So they fabricated this crisis to involve the military in the country's affairs, abolish democracy, and bypass the people's will—even though the proud Arab Algerian people had paid a high price to obtain their freedom and independence.

We reproach President Bendjedid for evading the storm, since he was the president of all the Algerian people, and since his homeland and nation were in dire need of a

president to preserve national unity and reconcile the rival parties. Unlike one-party rule, democracy involves different opinions and conflicting programs. One of the traits of a leader is his ability to maintain order and preserve national cohesion. If he were acting as a leader, Bendjedid would have taken command of the situation and controlled the shock that emanated from the new political reality. Instead, he left the ship of state to be tossed by destructive and unknown waves.

It is ironic indeed for a country like Algeria, which is rich in oil and has fertile agricultural land and natural resources, to reach such a degree of poverty and destitution. Its citizens have been immigrating to other countries in search of a livelihood, and its foreign debt has reached $26 billion. That causes the Arab nation's masses to feel that oil and the Arab nation's wealth have turned into a source of retribution, as well as the source of all the political, social, and economic ills from which the entire Arab homeland is suffering.

The proof of this is evident not only in Algeria but in many other Arab states. Furthermore, the Islamic evolution witnessed by Algeria is not inconsistent with the general tendency in the Arab nation, which has found its roots in its genuine principles after testing all the imported tendencies, from socialism to communism to capitalism, and after failing to attain stability or to make any progress in development and construction.

This nation is returning to its true religion, to faith, and to its foundations. As the Arab masses see it, this is the only way to build homelands and nations, to rectify the course, and to achieve the aspirations of humiliated peoples. If all other systems have failed, this is the path chosen by the heroic Algerian people, and it is the right choice.

From here, the holy land, we beseech Almighty God to protect Algeria and its people from all conspiracies and plots, and bless Algeria with prosperity and glory under the new system chosen by its people.

'Cancellation of Democracy' Seen

TA1601170492 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jan 92 p 7

[Editorial: "The Cancellation of Elections in Algeria Is the Cancellation of Democracy"]

[Text] Two days ago "The Supreme Security Council" in Algeria canceled the parliamentary elections, in the first round of which the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] scored a brilliant victory. The ground for this decision was paved by the resignation of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and under the pretext that "it is impossible to continue the election process until the necessary conditions for the normal operation of government institutions are attained."

The cancellation is incompatible with the concept of democracy, not only in Algeria, but in all the Arab countries that are looking forward to reinforcing the principles of democratic pluralism. Irrespective of the pretexts used by the decisionmakers, we cannot but agree with the view of FIS that this decision was merely an attempt to foil the choice of the majority of the Algerian people.

As is common knowledge, the Algerian elections were held on constitutional and legislative foundations approved by the Algerian people and agreed on by all the competing political parties, including the ruling party, the National Liberation Front. At the time, the election was described as one of the fairest, most objective and democratic elections in the Arab world. It would therefore have been better for the political parties that lost in the elections, which describe themselves as democratic parties, to respect their obligations and principles, accept the results of the elections, and allow the democratic process to run its course in order to spare the country any bloody power struggles and to help solve the growing economic and social crises.

Canceling the elections in such a manner is clearly a game to hold on to power and cover up political and administrative weaknesses. It demonstrates a lack of the courage to engage in self-criticism and assess the conditions that led to the defeat of the ruling party. The irony is that the decision to cancel the elections was made in the name of democracy and was supported by parties that never tire of describing themselves as democratic. If the aim of the cancellation was to prevent the FIS from attaining power, it will now enhance the credibility of the FIS and pull the rug from under the rival political parties.

We only support democracy and the fraternal Algerian people in their choice and aspirations for a better future. We do not support one political party against another. If the majority of the Algerian people today see their deliverance in the assumption of power by the FIS, the "Islamic option" favored by the FIS should be given the chance to rule while guaranteeing the freedom and rights of others within the principles of the constitution and the rules of democratic pluralism. Either this option will fail and be exhausted, or it will succeed and the democratic process will be enhanced to the country's benefit. Otherwise, what is democracy?

Algeria

Boudiaf Notes Need To Fill 'Power Vacuum'

LD1701002592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 92

["Part" of interview with Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, by correspondent Abdelmoumen Dakkar aboard an aircraft en route to Algiers on 16 January—recorded]

[Text] [Dakkar] Mr. Chairman, you are returning to the homeland following 28 years away. What are your feelings at this historic moment?

[Boudiaf] It is a very happy day for me to be going back to my country, my homeland, and the homeland of my forefathers, particularly at this very time. As far as I am concerned I was surprised at my brothers' request in Algeria. After consultations I thought it was my duty to return. My feelings are of pride and happiness.

[Dakkar] Mr. Chairman, did you impose any conditions before accepting your duties?

[Boudiaf] I was quite afraid. After the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] success, and after having listened to radio reports and reports from Algeria itself, I was afraid that there might be bloodshed. I was very concerned. However, after I had been to Algeria and contacted my brothers, and because bloodshed did not take place in Algeria, I was encouraged to accept this responsibility. I did not impose any conditions because first, this committee has only just been formed; its policy is yet to be clarified. Of course, it was [formed] to replace the president. I hope at this moment, however, that there are men and cadres in Algeria who will be able to find a framework of trust in which they can work. That is my hope. I do not think that I am wrong in this respect; there is a certain readiness to work in Algeria. I have found a readiness in the people and authorities who I have contacted. God willing, everything will be alright.

[Dakkar] Have you contacted any other parties outside official circles?

[Boudiaf] No. My first visit did not in fact involve [word indistinct]. However, once I was sure that there would be no bloodshed I came to lead the Higher State Council because I believe that this council... [changes thought] your question was whether I had any other contacts with other people. I had contacts with a number of officials—trade union officials, war veterans, and Army officers—and my impression of them was good. There is mutual understanding. Everything will be alright, God willing.

[Unidentified female correspondent in French] What is the prerogative of this State Council?

[Boudiaf] It is to fill the power vacuum, to replace the president. It has the same prerogatives [as the president]. This committee has not yet met. It should thus be announced. [passage indistinct]. I hope I will have the opportunity of seeing you again to discuss this problem again.

[Dakkar] Is there any possibility of overcoming the crisis? There are some people who say that this will not resolve the problem of Algeria.

[Boudiaf] What is Algeria's problem?

[Dakkar] Algeria's problem is the current political crisis.

[Boudiaf] Algeria's problem before anything else is an economic one, which has led to a political crisis. The other thing is the fact that authorities at the highest level were not good enough. I used to think that I am a Muslim [words indistinct]. I have been a Muslim all my life and I love Islam. (?Islam should not be mixed with nationalism) because all parties have a religious character. [words indistinct] We hope that there will be democracy in Algeria [words indistinct].

[Dakkar] The three parties that won seats in the first round of elections have all rejected, in one way or another, the Higher State Council [HSC] with the assertion that it is unconstitutional. What is your comment on this?

[Boudiaf] Everyone is free. The brothers who examined the situation thought there was a constitutional vacuum. [Words indistinct]. The main thing is that the HSC will open new horizons for Algeria and will find solutions to Algeria's problems.

[Dakkar] Who makes up the membership of the consultative body which will help you in your duties?

[Boudiaf] I have yet to examine this issue with my brothers. Responsibility ought to be collegial, however, because however good one's thoughts are, a collegial opinion is always better.

[Dakkar] You mean you are going back to the roots of the Algerian revolution, when a decision was collegial?

[Boudiaf] And collegial it was at the beginning. It was against the cult of personality. [words indistinct]

[Dakkar] Are you an optimist?

[Boudiaf] Yes, I am. Algeria has resources, youth, and [word indistinct] The youth's interest must be taken into consideration because it is the sweeping force which can lift Algeria.

Calls on Citizens To Maintain Order

LD1601221192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 2055 GMT 16 January 92

[Address to the nation by Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, in Algiers on 16 January—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God; praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon God's prophet. Brothers and sisters:

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. A short while ago I and my brothers—the members of the Higher State Council—had the honor of being constitutionally sworn in, after which we received the new duties which this council has to carry out. Today I returned to my homeland after fate had destined that I should live away from the land of the forefathers and glories—the land of braveries and sacrifice, the land of challenge and martyrdom, the land of honor and dignity. I had to make my first address which is greetings to you all, sisters and brothers, the sons of the Algerian people in all its factions and generations throughout this dear homeland. It is a greeting that I address to you with profound feelings as I was touched because my return was in response to the appeal of sacred duty and out of loyalty to the values and principles of the November Revolution; it came in response to a difficult phase through which Algeria is passing.

Algeria is threatened. The enemies of yesterday and today are conspiring against its independence and unity. Shouldering the burden of responsibility at the present circumstances is a national duty against which all sacrifices become negligible. I have returned to join the rank of women and men who are standing firm in the face of challenge and who are armed with their loyalty to this homeland, their truthfulness, and their zeal for the sake of the present and future of this homeland.

We are all determined to work with all the sons of this people to take Algeria to safety. Today's generations are nothing but the cubs and the offspring of the generation of the November Revolution, the generation that wrested independence [from France] with their jihad and their sacrifice. Today's generation has to face up to a greater jihad: building the country upon sound bases.

Brothers and sisters, the state's institutions must be respected by everyone. The state must be and must always remain the state of law. Justice, right, and equality between people must prevail; injustice facing the weak must be corrected. The only way to achieve all that is through a sound democratic program. Democracy does not, however, mean anarchy, nor does it mean insulting the state institutions. Our people must therefore fully understand democracy and its dimensions.

Independent Algeria is still a young country; most of the people are young persons of whom we are very proud. It is my pledge that I will do my utmost to work with them to find suitable solutions to the problems facing our youth. And this will be in the forefront of my preoccupations.

The blessed November Revolution was from the outset carried out by few people with limited resources; however, their determination was solid and strong and their belief in the people was total and their bond with the people was strong and continuous. Our belief in the resourcefulness of this people is still firm; they are a great people who challenged fear and faced up to dangers thanks to their belief in their homeland and their commitment to their true Islamic faith. Islam in this country is everyone's religion; all successive Algerian revolutions which have taken place on this blessed soil throughout history have always been proud of this religion, and they have always supported it, protected it and defended it.

It is not permissible today for any person or a group to monopolize religion, or exploit it for suspect purposes. The unity of the homeland is sacred. No one can play havoc with it; Islam is sacred and one cannot fool around with it.

Brothers and sisters, Algeria is rich with its material resources and it is rich with its human resources, and we cannot view the economic crisis from which we are suffering as though it is an inevitable fate. Rather, we can together overcome it with what will, courage, sincerity, and self-confidence we can muster. Algeria is mature despite what its enemies say. And our people are capable of controlling the conditions. Thus they must prove to those who doubt them and hate them that they can maintain calm, order, and security for all, assisting this way the mighty efforts being made by our sons in the security services and our National People's Army. To all of them I extend a warm salute of struggle.

All people want to leave behind as soon as possible the state of anxiety and fear, and they firmly reject those who call for hatred, enmity, and fighting [tanahur] and open their hearts to those who call for rapprochement, cohesion, forgiveness, and fraternity.

Brothers and sisters, I am happy with my return to my homeland, to be among my kinfolk and brothers after a long absence. I beseech God Almighty to help us all and guide our steps and make us successful in the service of our sacred principles and the glory of our homeland, to triumph as it triumphed in the November Revolution. At this critical time in which the winds of dispersion and the dangers of chaos and sedition are posing a threat, my wish is to be primarily a closer of ranks, a unifier of the constructive efforts, and an encourager of good efforts. Here is my hand stretched out to all without exception. I extend it with confidence and hope for greetinga and for the renewal of the covenant for reconciliation, assistance, and cooperation in the building of Algeria as our martyrs would have liked it to be, and as our youth want it to be: an Algeria where peace, compassion, forgiveness, the unity of ranks, and creative work prevail. God grants success. God's peace, mercy and blessing be upon you.

State Council's Haroun on Human Rights, Army

LD1501213192 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Interview with Higher State Council member Ali Haroun by Francoise Joly on 15 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Up to now the five members of the Higher State Council have remained rather silent. Tonight one of them, Ali Haroun, the former human rights minister, broke his silence. Francoise Joly has managed to get a first exclusive account by him of recent developments:

[Begin Haroun recording] As human rights minister, I believe that when an exceptional situation in a nation's life occurs, at that point it is a question of defending the whole of this nation, because what threatened us after 13 January was an Islamic state, as is seen in certain countries that I do not want to name here. I say that I defend human rights by doing what is necessary so that my country will not undergo the situation that is being experienced in certain countries in the Middle East and East Africa.

If the Army tells me how I should do things, I will say no, and I will leave. I will leave and resign. And in what capacity would the Army tell me what to do? Why would General Nezzar impose his stand using arms? Why? We fought to free this country from the colonialist; we do not want to leave it in the hands of a military junta that, in any case, has never asked that this should happen.

What is wrong is that where Third World countries are concerned, we always equate armies with dictatorships and fascism, whereas the fact is that our Army is made up of people who fought for the cause of national freedom. The Army has a different way of thinking. This is perhaps an exception, but it must be accepted. The Army is like that. [end recording]

Explains Attitude Toward FIS

LD1601184692 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] One of the five leaders of the Higher State Council explains his position in this interview by our special correspondent, Francoise Joly. Mohamed Ali Haroun was minister of human rights in the Ghozali government. He maintains that for the moment, the situation is one of defending the Algerian people. He defined the attitude of the Higher State Council toward the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

[Begin Haroun recording] The FIS, which has at least shown some honesty and frankness in this area, said that it is not democratic, that it is against democracy, that it does not want democracy. It has said that when it takes power there will be no more elections; there will be the al-Shura, the religious men who meet together and decide on your behalf. The FIS says there will be no democracy. It says there will be no elections. It says it would use the elections to gain power. Afterwards there would be no more elections.

As a minister of human rights, my question is: Who is there to defend the notion of human rights? Am I going to allow a situation where, in a month or two, people will no longer have any rights? I cannot do that. There are currently men in Algeria who are assuming their responsibilities. There is a great part of the population that feels reassured. We are going to take the time to set up real institutions to lead this country toward real democracy—not some pretext of using a democratic process that ends up killing democracy. That is what we want. [end recording]

Ministry Decries 'Patronizing' Foreign Statements

LD1501173692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] In reply to painfully patronizing and biased statements on the part of some politicians abroad, the Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in which it notes that some of these politicians think that they can make judgements on the positions that should be taken toward our country.

The Foreign Ministry states that these statements came from countries and public figures known for their positions toward Algeria. They are states which in any case do not constitute models either in terms of development or in terms of human rights and democratic practices.

The statement further notes that Algeria has always respected the sovereignty and independence of other states—a matter that enables it to today condemn these attitudes—and Algeria insists that others respect its sovereignty and national independence.

[Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French at 1700 GMT on 15 January, in a similar report, states that the Algerian Foreign Ministry "has denounced the statements by foreign politicians on the situation in the country" as amounting to "deliberately patronizing and alarmist interference."]

FIS, FLN, FFS Denounce Higher State Council

LD1601201292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The Higher State Council, whose term of office will not extend beyond the end of the presidential term which came after the 1988 elections, was strongly criticized by the three fronts which contested the first round of the legislative elections: namely, the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and the Socialist Forces Front [FFS]. These three fronts expressed their opposition to the suspension of the election process. They termed the setting up of the Higher State Council unconstitutional. In the meantime, the three fronts continued their movements in the light of the new situation which has dominated the political arena.

After the announcement made by the FLN secretary general about the first meeting with the FIS, a statement issued by the FFS which was today delivered to our radio station said that a meeting took place this morning at FFS Headquarters between FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri and FFS leader Ait Ahmed. The statement said that the two men exchanged views on the events which led to the suspension of the democratic process. The statement also said that Ait Ahmed recalled the need to maintain civil peace and to let dialogue prevail.

Unconfirmed reports noted a meeting between members of the FIS and the FFS. Informed sources on the other hand talked about another meeting between former

President Ahmed Ben Bella and FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri. [passage omitted]

At this moment I have learned from my colleagues that national radio has learned that this evening at the office of Ali Yahia Abdennur, leader of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, a meeting took place between the leader of the FFS and Abdelkader Hachani, head of the FIS provisional bureau, as well as [FIS official] Mohamed Said. The meeting lasted about two hours. After this period, Hachani and Mohamed Said were seen leaving followed five minutes later by Ait Ahmed.

FLN's Mehri Comments

LD1701001292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Abdelhamid Mehri, National Liberation Front secretary general, today spoke with national radio correspondent Ali Boudoukha. He touched on several issues concerning the moves by the FLN. At the start, Mr. Mehri answered a question on evaluating the talks between the FLN leadership and the Islamic Salvation Front. Some newspapers said that this is an unnatural alliance.

[Begin recording] [Mehri] First, as I said, this is the first contact between the FLN and FIS. In the past, when a campaign was launched to make the public think that there were contacts and agreements between the FIS and the FLN, I said that when we contact certain parties we would announce when this takes place. [passage omitted]

[Boudoukha] What did you talk about when you met Mr. Ait Ahmed?

[Mehri] The contact was in the same vein. I believe that other contacts will take place. They spring from the same desire to allow the FLN to provide an atmosphere of assurance and seriousness and a sense of appreciating the gravity of the responsibility so the rest of the problems may be tackled in a spirit of responsibility.

[Boudoukha] Has there been a meeting with [Movement for Democracy in Algeria, MDA, founder] Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, and when and why did it take place?

[Mehri] I visited brother Ahmed Ben Bella at his own request. We discussed several questions. This was before the formation of the State Council. There were also special matters about which we exchanged opinions with regard to the relationship between the FLN and the MDA. We did not talk about the latest developments. This is contrary to what some news agencies reported, that I had made specific efforts to include Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella in a specific endeavor. That is pure supposition on their part.

[Boudoukha] Some circles say that beside the three fronts there is a fourth side—namely France. What is your comment on this?

[Mehri] This goes back to the intention of those who raise such questions. I believe we do not need someone in the FLN to vouch for our patriotism.

[Boudoukha] If your were called upon, I mean as an FLN party, to take part in the consultative council which is planned to be set up, what would your stand be?

[Mehri] The stand of the FLN on the future developments would be decided by the bodies that have authority to decide. Each will deal with its own part. The Political Bureau will deal with some issues and the Central Committee would be asked to meet shortly to deal with other issues. It is not up to me exclusively to take a stand on matters that are extremely important. [end recording]

FLN Official Says Mehri Statement Not Binding

LD1701005792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0000 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. Ammar Benaouda, member of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party Central Committee, has announced in a statement to APS that FLN party Secretary General Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri's message, which he sent to the Constitutional Council in the name of the political party, binds only those who had written it and not the Central Committee, which neither met nor was consulted on this matter.

Mr. Benaouda affirmed, furthermore, that Mehri's pronouncements during his news conference which he held last Wednesday only bind him and those who are with him; usual procedures were not respected and the Central Committee did not meet to take a clear stand, he asserted.

Parties React To Higher State Council Formation

LD1601182892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Cheik Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement [Hamas], today expressed the hope that the Higher State Council will protect the freedoms earned by the Algerian people. Nahnah also expressed the hope that the council will continue the democratic process and not obstruct the Islamic project in the country.

Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, in a statement to Radio France Info, said that setting up the Higher State Council was like calling on history to make up for democratic legitimacy. Hocine Ait Ahmed added that he cannot affirm today to the people, after 30 years of the exploitation of historical legitimacy, that men of history can solve the current problems. He said that his party will keep the same line to maintain civil peace and that it may play the role of a mediator with a view to avoiding violence and civil war in the country.

The Socialist Vanguard Party, in a statement issued today, said that the Higher State Council will provide continuity of the state and provide the necessary conditions for the application of the Constitution and the normal running of

the Republic's institutions. It also opens the road for laying the proper foundations for the modern republic, and democracy and progress. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Al-Nahdah Islamic movement [Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah], in a statement made to Algiers radio a few moments ago, said the Al-Nahdah Islamic movement, which is determined to do all it can to advise this nation, society and regime, finds itself—in the face of serious constitional transgressions—obliged to remove all ambiguity, reveal the truth, and call a spade a spade. [passage omitted] The al-Nahdah Islamic movement considers the Higher Security Council to be no more than a consultative body. It also considers respect for the will of the people and the embodiment of its choice to be a legal and historical duty that cannot be set aside, whatever excuses, motives, and justifications may be presented. [passage omitted].

Among other reactions, the Association of Veterans and Friends of FLN [National Liberation Front] Youths called on all its members and all those who sympathize with it to support the Higher State Council in carrying out its mission to protect national unity and the republican system. [passage omitted]

The Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal today expressed its satisfaction at the formation of the Higher State Council and proposed wide consultations to form a government of national unity. The movement is of the view that the Higher State Council should consult with the political strata and civil society with a view to forming a government of national unity to deal with economic and social problems, and to provide all the conditions for fair presidential and legislative elections. [passage omitted]

The National Association of Imams called on all mosque imams throughout the country to focus their speeches and teaching on strengthening the ties of amity and concord among the people. The society underlined the need for unification, unity of ranks, and general guidance toward proper Islamic awareness.

Commentary Views Creation of Higher State Council

LD1601200492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Barhoum Boudjemaa commentary]

[Text] Why the creation of the Higher State Council, and why the choice of Mr. Boudiaf as chairman of this council? Barhoum Boudjemaa wrote the following commentary:

[Begin Boudjemaa recording] The sequence of events is progressing quickly. The accumulation of past events is throwing its weight in the political arena. The effect and impact of the current shock left all who experienced the crisis in a state of stupor and fear of the unknown.

After lengthy discussions and hot political debates, political experts and decisionmakers have come to a solution resulting in the formation of a Higher State Council to take charge of running the country in the shadow of the constitutional vacuum resulting from the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid.

Are the prerogatives given to the council constitutional or anticonstitutinal? This question falls in the area of legal experts. However, the new body is a fact and will start its functions as soon as it is sworn in. In the opinion of the political decisionmakers, the Higher State Council was the only solution to get the country out of the crisis it has reached.

It seems that it was the shrinking of the military phenomenon on the African Continent in particular following the democratic awakening that made resorting to a military solution difficult. Add to that the specifics of Algeria and the fact that it is a great deal different from many African countries. The Algerian Armed Forces are different in their structures from the other armed forces in Third World countries.

Political analysts and some parties in the national arena think that the operation was planned and that it is a bloodless coup against the rule of the president, who resigned and who has, in the view of these people, gone beyond the red line or not made good use of his prerogatives in a way that would have spared the country a political dilemma.

The Higher State Council is here. How will it face up to the crisis and what surprises are in store in the political arena? These questions are left to time.

As for the choice of the chairman of the council, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, who is one of the symbols of the liberation revolution, this is considered a partial solution because he is a neutral figure who has no links with any national political parties. Furthermore, he is the only man among the historic leaders of the revolution who did not enter any political struggle. He has his own opinions on the political situation in Algeria from 1962 up to the present. His historic weight and political neutrality might have led the state's political decisionmakers to choose him for the chairmanship of the council, as their intention is that this choice lightens the impact of the crisis and reduces the acuity of the conflict.

The ability to avert the storm remains subject to the practical stands of this council in conformity with the developments and changes in the political arena. This ability also depends on the stands of the influential political groups and the way they will adapt to the new situation. [end recording]

Press Cited on Reaction to Political Events

LD1501165392 Algiers APS in English 1144 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, 15 Jan (APS)—The creation of a state committee chaired by Mohamed Boudiaf is abundently commented by the dailies of the national press in their

Wednesday issues. Under the title "That's It...", the daily LE QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE considers that "...Mohamed Boudiaf, who chairs the State Committee announced yesterday, seems to be the man of the consensus and of the situation given his capacity to carry out, in the exceptional circumstances lived through by Algeria, the great works of Heracles, only likely to bring back hope and confidence within the population who have been pushed against their will to make choices of an extreme importance engaging their future."

"It is clear now," the daily added, "that the political democracy has no chance to succeed if it is not built on the solution of economic and social problems."

The daily concludes that "what is urgent today is to bring back reason to the part of our people who consider they have been betrayed by the power...."

Dealing with the same topic, the daily LE MATIN pointed out that Mohamed Boudiaf "...is undoubtedly one of the rare among the generation of the precursors of 1954 still alive."

For the daily ALGER-REPUBLICAIN, the High State Committee constituted yesterday appears as an "extraordinary answer to an extraordinary situation in some regards," adding that "...the supreme instance created in this connection...has a precise task the one to act in order to eradicate causes which are at the basis of the present situation and definitely impose the question of the undue legitimacy of the totalitarian fundamentalist parties."

EL-MOUDJAHID and AL-WATAN dailies devote their commentaries to the French interfence within Algeria's home policy. Under the title "Paris' Orders", AL-WATAN daily, stressing the statement of the French head of state regarding the difficult stage Algeria shows, notes this statement sounds like an order given to the Algerian authorities and could hence be regarded as an interference into the domestic affairs of Algeria. It also conceals dangers in the sense that it could appear as an encouragement to all partisans of adventurism. Finally, the daily adds, "we wonder whether this official France would have wished the carrying on of a logic even if the price will be a civil war by reason of which the Algerian people will be the only victim."

The same daily concludes "within such a difficult stage they show, all Algerians do not need to be drilled but only real friends who know to transmit messages of appeasement." [sentence as received]

"What seems each time to fascinate the French media, it is not the resignation of President Chadli.... What grips these circles where our country does not enjoy a very great esteem, is Algeria" EL-MOUDJAHID states in a commentary entitled "Media".

"Within commentaries made on the occasion of the events going on in Algeria, is this absence of discretion that always appears," the daily carries on, concluding "whatever their beliefs, the Algerians do have enough dignity to not play to 'boat people'."

Press Views FLN Stand on State Council

LD1601205192 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, 16/01/92 (APS)—The official meeting between the FLN [National Liberation Front] party secretary general, Mehri and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders following the installation of the High State Committee, is the information commented and analyzed by the main morning dailies.

Under the title "FLN in the Opposition", "AL-WATAN" noted that "Abdelhamid Mehri who openly critisizes the setting up of the High State Committee, (...) is indeed a new langage for the FLN, which seems to give up its logic of the party in power which always promoted it (...). The FLN which joins the opposition means that (...) the party will counter members of the High State Council and the Ghozali government" further the author estimated that "by joining the opposition with the cover of the unique party, the FLN risks its survival. [no closing quotation marks as received] The author noted that members of the Political Bureau of the FLN "headed by Mehri did not seem yesterday to serve a good cause, following what seems a rallying to the FIS". In its turn, "LE MATIN" estimated in its editorial entitled "Algeria Is Not To Be Seized" "If the civil society reacted, it is not to prevent the democratic process, but to block the way to a FIS state bearing all the dangers. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Egypt

Mubarak Meets Indian External Affairs Minister

NC1601140592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Madhavsinh Solanki, Indian minister of external affairs, met today at the presidential headquarters in a meeting also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Indian ambassador to Egypt.

Solanki talked to the press following the meeting, saying: The meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality. We discussed bilateral issues, he added, especially our strong desire to strengthen relations in the fields of trade, the exchange of technological information, and cultural relations, in addition to coordinating stands in the nonaligned movement and other issues.

The Indian minister said that during the meeting, discussions centered on international and regional situations, as well as world events.

Foreign Minister Musa said that the Indian official handed a letter from Indian Prime Minister P.V.

Narasimha Rao and another one from the Indian president to President Mubarak. He explained that the letter contained an official invitation to President Mubarak to visit India. Musa said that an agreement was reached to strengthen and move relations in all fields between Egypt and India to the framework of cooperation among third world countries so the countries will be able to benefit from the vast potential available for trade exchange and economic and cultural cooperation in all fields.

The foreign minister expressed his belief that relations between Egypt and India will be moved forward soon by the mutual use of available resources in the industrial, agricultural, and scientific fields.

Responding to a question on whether there were any contacts between Egypt and the authorities in Algeria, 'Amr Musa said: We are following the situation through diplomatic channels. Yesterday, President Mubarak made a statement on the situation in Algeria. He indicated his interest in this issue. Egypt is very interested in everything that is happening in Algeria and we hope everything goes well there. We are closely following events in Algeria, Musa added, because what happens there not only concerns Algeria and neighboring countries but all Arab countries, including Egypt.

Responding to a question on who is currently ruling Algeria, Musa said that speedy developments and a close watch on events there will clarify the issues of who is ruling and what their future steps will be.

Musa was asked if the issue of Egyptians in Iraq was discussed, especially in light of the fact that India is looking after Egyptian interests there. As you are aware, Musa responded, India is looking after Egypt's interests in Iraq. This subject was discussed during my talks with the Indian minister because we are extremely concerned about the condition of the Egyptians. In fact, several steps have been taken to ensure that the Egyptians are cared for as much as possible in the current difficult circumstances.

Asked whether he is optimistic about the Arab-Israeli peace process, Musa said: Let us leave optimism and pessimism aside, adding that the talks have not yet exceeded the procedural aspects yet. This concerns us greatly because if the talks continue this way, they will influence the effectiveness of the bilateral talks and the entire peace process will be influenced.

It is still somewhat early to judge the progress of the negotiations. We have great hope that the negotiations will move to substantive issues; namely, land for peace and Palestinian rights.

Musa was asked whether an agreement has been reached on a different venue for the multilateral talks, scheduled to begin in Moscow on 28 January. Regarding the multilateral talks, he said, the U.S. and Russian ambassadors yesterday gave me an official invitation for the first organizational meeting for these talks, to be held on 28 January at the ministerial level and on 29 January at the technical level.

During these meetings, Musa said, we will not deal with substantive issues but with procedural issues, including meeting dates, venues, agenda, etc. During the Moscow session, no subject or cooperation in any field will be discussed; it will be a procedural session to organize the future work and to agree on dates, venues, committees, and other subjects. As we all can see, we cannot achieve any progress on regional cooperation within the framework of the multilateral talks unless progress is achieved in bilateral talks.

He noted that this is a fundamental and basic fact, adding that we cannot discuss cooperation in any field before Israel presents proof that it has a firm political will to establish peace on the land-for-peace principle.

Responding to a question about the political efforts Egypt is making on the Libyan crisis with America and the European states, Musa said: Contacts are being made with the UN Security Council member states, and we are very interested in this subject and are following it up. We are concerned about fraternal Libya and the Libyan people. We have a firm policy against terrorism and all terrorist practices. As you aware, Usamah al-Baz visited Libya two days ago as part of the ongoing contacts to resolve the crisis in a manner that will achieve the interests of Libya, the Arabs, and international legitimacy.

Responding to a question about Israel's refusal to discuss the settlement issue during the peace negotiations, Musa said that the continuation of this policy erodes the peace process and kills the hope for peace. The very construction of settlements, he added, is an illegal act and goes against peace and will lead to absolute anarchy in the Middle East if it continues. Therefore, we warn Israel that the continuation of settlement policy runs counter to stability in the Middle East. Any measure taken by any state to help Israel construct settlements will have an extremely bad effect on public opinion as well as on the peace process and the hopes pinned on it.

Parliamentary Delegation Returns From Libya

NC1601172792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—An Egyptian parliamentary delegation headed by Kamal al-Shadhili, assistant secretary general of the National Democratic Party, returned here this evening after visiting the Libyan Jamahiriyah to take part in the extraordinary session of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which concluded earlier today.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, conferred with the Egyptian parliamentary delegation and explained his views regarding the [words indistinct] U.S. and French accusations on Libya's responsibility for blowing up two airliners a few years ago. The delegation included Dr. Tulbah 'Uwaydah,

chairman of the Arab Relations Committee in the People's Assembly; Khalid Muhiy-al-Din, parliamentary opposition leader and leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping; and Rif'at Bashir, an independent member of the assembly. [words indistinct] of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

Mubarak Receives Canadian Defense Minister

NC1701000692 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1648 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received Canadian Defense Minister Marcel Masse. The meeting was attended by Defense Minister General Husayn Tantawi and Canadian Ambassador in Cairo Jacques Simard.

The Canadian defense minister stated that the meeting was very important and good. He said they reviewed the international situation, particularly in the Middle East. He said: I took this opportunity to express to President Mubarak, on behalf of the Canadian Government and people and on my own behalf, our view of the president as a leader of this part of the world and that we depend on his wisdom and knowledge in the area. The Canadian defense minister said that President Mubarak played a principal role in the peace process, and he continues to play this role. It is difficult to achieve peace in this area or the world without the existence of a person like him. He added: I expressed to President Mubarak our government's and people's support for him, because we depend very much on his leading role in the area.

Interior Minister—State To Confront 'Extremists'

NC1701083292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has announced that the security forces will strongly and firmly confront extremists and end their terrorist acts against peaceful citizens. He noted that the heavenly religions encourage tolerance and reject all forms of violence and terrorism.

During a meeting today with journalists accredited to the Interior Ministry, Musa said that cooperation between various media and the Ministry is important so the people will be given the facts, particularly regarding major incidents and important issues that worry them. He said this must be done so the public has a clear picture, to prevent rumors, and to thwart attempts to create confusion and destabilize the country.

Musa added that the Interior Ministry has an open policy with the media so that journalists can carry out their duties. He praised the existing close cooperation between the media and the ministry, saying that it serves society.

Libya

UTA Suspects Agree To French Court Appearance

LD1701095792 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Two of the Libyans accused in the UTA DC-10 affair say they are willing to appear in a French court.

In a statement to the RFI [Radio France International] Arabic Service, Deputy Foreign Minister Musa Kusa said yesterday that he is willing to receive a French investigator and even to appear before a French Court. Shortly afterwards, another suspect, 'Abd Allah al-Sanusi, the Libyan secret service number two, was saying the same thing to our AFP colleagues. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Bosnia-Hercegovina Envoy

LD1601203892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received brother Alija Izetbegovic, personal envoy of the president of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Brother Izetbegovic affirmed the solidarity of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and its stance beside the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in the face of the false U.S. and British allegations.

JANA Commentator on Dumas Statements

LD1601203392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jan (JANA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told a French newspaper that the EC's five southern European countries will propose the establishment of a large development project in the Arab Maghreb, and that this project will be discussed later this year by the Arab Maghreb countries and the five European countries.

JANA's commentator for international affairs remarked on these comments curiously, asking: What later time and which meeting between the European group and the countries of the Arab Maghreb group does Dumas mean?

Doesn't he know that it is France that is blowing up the bridge of cooperation with the Arab Maghreb? How then do Dumas' statements and talk about cooperation and later meetings tally at a time when France is trying to please the United States, which takes a hostile attitude toward the Arab Maghreb?

The commentator adds that when Dumas talks about cooperation and later meetings for cooperation with the Arab Maghreb, we see French moves with the United States to beat the sons of the Arab Maghreb, a matter that causes us to say to Mr. Dumas that France cannot do two things at once. The project you proposed to the UN Security Council is a conspiracy against this cooperation and rapprochement which everyone welcomes. It is a

bomb to blow up the cooperative bridge with the countries of the Arab Maghreb which you are talking about. As the Koran says: We did not wrong them; they wronged their own souls.

Mauritania

'Incidents' Mark Presidential Election Campaign

LD1501160492 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Mauritania—The presidential election is scheduled to take place in nine days' time, on 24 January. The campaign is in full swing, of course, but yesterday Nouakchott was the scene of new incidents. It was the last day for registration for the electoral lists, and apparently not everyone was able to register. Thierry Perret reports:

[Perret] There were still several hundred people outside certain election registration offices in Nouakchott at midnight yesterday—that was the time of the official closure of registration for the electoral lists. The antiriot units positioned in the city for several days now went into action to disperse the recalcitrant persons by using tear gas grenades.

So, tension continues to rise in Nouakchott, where yesterday morning several tens of thousands of young people marched in the capital in support of the opposition candidate, Ahmed Ould Daddah. There were many slogans attacking President Maaouiya Ould Taya.

The problem of election lists in any case threatens to poison the end of the presidential election campaign on 24 January, the main demand of the opposition. It won a 10-day extension to allow for the registration of thousands of voters, particularly black Mauritanians, but obstructions were again observed over the last few days, including by diplomats on the spot, with some registration offices remaining open for just a few hours a day. President Ould Taya had, however, just stated that instructions would be given to the administration to guarantee its impartiality, at a time when the opposition recalls that, according to it, Mauritanians living abroad have not been able to register.

It also protests—and the matter has also been taken up by the independent press—the distribution of voting cards to foreigners, notably Touaregs, it is said, who have taken refuge in the southeast of Mauritania.

Bahrain

Amir, Prime Minister Receive Niger Premier

JN1401182192 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Manama, Jan 14 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah and H.H. the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning Niger's Prime Minister Mr Cheiffou Amadou and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Bahrain. Mr Amadou conveyed to H.H. the amir greetings from President of Niger Ali Saibou and his wishes of continued progress and prosperity for Bahrain under the leadership of H.H. the amir.

H.H. the amir welcomed the country's guest and expressed pleasure for the visit which comes within the framework of enhancing relations between the two countries.

H.H. also praised the outcome of the talks held between Bahrain and Niger to further boost prospects of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. H.H. also underlined the importance of the visit to consult on regional and African matters of concern to the Islamic world and asserted Bahrain's keenness to boost its relations with Niger for service of the two countries and the Islamic world.

For his part, the prime minister of Niger expressed [words indistinct] appreciation to H.H. the amir and H.H. the prime minister for the kind hospitality accorded to him and the accompanying delegation and said his visit to Bahrain and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries was aimed at enhancing ties of cooperation between Niger and the GCC countries.

At the audience they also reviewed comprehensively a number of matters of concern to the two countries mainly Gulf, Arab, African and Islamic issues and current international changes in addition to relations between the two countries.

The audience was attended by Bahraini Interior Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhamad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah and the Minister of Transportation and head of the suite Mr Ibrahim Humaydan.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on U.S., European War Materiel

PM1601143792 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 Jan 92 p 2

[Badr al-Rababah report: ""Eight F-18 Aircraft To Arrive Next Month"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has announced that eight U.S. F-18 aircraft, piloted by Kuwaiti airmen, will arrive in Kuwait next month to join the Kuwaiti Air Force and defend the homeland by repulsing any attempt to infiltrate Kuwaiti airspace. He added that another group of aircraft, military vehicles, tanks, motorized units, and weapons arrived in Kuwait earlier from the states of international legitimacy.

This came in a statement by the defense minister to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, in which he referred to the "Peninsula Shield" forces, emphasizing that they were still present on Kuwaiti territory to defend the northern borders, and that they will remain in their positions as long as there is a need for their presence.

The defense minister affirmed that the Kuwaiti Army was rebuilding itself so that it will soon be the protective shield in defending the homeland's territory and protecting Kuwait against any outside attempts to harm it. [passage omitted]

On the two treaties concluded between Kuwait and Britain and Kuwait and France, the defense minister emphasized that they are not different in their texts and clauses from the agreement which the liberated State of Kuwait signed with the United States. And that these agreements fall within one framework and one aim—defending and protecting Kuwait in the event of an external threat to its security and territory. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Holds Talks With Niger Counterpart

LD1501233392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1108 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwaiti-Niger talks were held here this morning. The Kuwaiti side was led by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and the Niger side was led by Prime Minister Amadou Cheiffou [name and title as received].

The talks focused on the amicable bilateral relations and means of promoting them, in addition to other issues of mutual interest.

After the meeting, which was attended by members of the two countries' delegations, Shaykh Sa'adal-'Abdallah and Amadou Cheiffou had a private meeting.

The prime minister of Niger met this morning with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Qatar

Envoy Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message, Departs

JN1401192592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Doha, 14 Jan (WAKH)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces and envoy of the Libyan leader, left Doha today at the conclusion of a brief visit to the State of Qatar.

During the visit, al-Kharrubi relayed to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy

amir, heir apparent, and defense minister, an oral message addressed to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi regarding issues of common interest, as well as Arab and world developments.

Saudi Arabia

Japanese Trade Minister Arrives in Riyadh on Visit

OW1201074092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh, Jan. 11 KYODO—Japan's Trade Minister Kozo Watanabe arrived in Riyadh on Saturday night for talks on bilateral economic cooperation with Saudi Arabian Government leaders.

The Minister of International Trade and Industry is visiting this country on the first leg of a 10-day Middle Eastern trip which will also take him to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The three nations on his tour supply 40 percent of Japan's crude oil.

On Sunday he will confer with his Saudi counterpart Sulayman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sulayyim, oil minister Hisham Nazir, and other ministers.

The talks are expected to focus on ways to ensure a stable oil supply to Japan and on Japanese economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

Specifically, Watanabe will ask Saudi Arabia to extend Arabian Oil Co.'s concessions in the Khafji Oil Field, which are due to expire in the year 2000, officials accompanying the minister said.

Arabian Oil Co. is Japan's largest oil producer and discovered the large oil field in the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1960.

The first Japanese cabinet member to visit the Middle East since the end of the Persian Gulf War last April, Watanabe is expected to voice Tokyo's respect for Saudi efforts in the war.

Watanabe will also ask Saudi Arabia to help three Japanese oil companies set up a joint oil-refining company with the Saudis, the officials said. The establishment of company was agreed on last year.

Moreover, he will propose the conclusion of a tax convention between the two countries and the opening of a Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) office in Riyadh. Jetro is affiliated with Watanabe's trade ministry.

This is aimed at encouraging Japanese businesses to boost investments in this oil-rich kingdom, which is now seeking to branch out into industrial sectors other than oil, the officials said.

Tokyo's Refinery Production To Rise

OW1301005892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0024 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to raise the daily processing capacity of proposed joint oil refineries in Japan to 450,000 barrels from the original plan, Japanese government sources said Sunday.

Visiting Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe reached the agreement with Saudi oil minister Hisham Nazir, the sources said.

The two countries agreed in principle last May to build oil refineries jointly in both Japan and Saudi Arabia.

Partners in the plan—Saudi Arabia's state-run oil company Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Saudi Aramco) and the three Japanese companies Nippon Oil Co., Nippon Mining Co., and the Arabian Oil Co.—agreed originally that the Japanese side would produce 150,000 barrels per day and the Saudi side 300,000 barrels per day.

On the occasion of Watanabe's visit here, however, it was decided that the Japanese production level be raised to 450,000 barrels per day, according to the sources.

Nippon Oil and Nippon Mining will have their refineries in Japan prepare for the increased production, the sources said.

Currently, Saudi Arabia ships about 24 percent of Japan's total crude oil imports. This new agreement will secure a stable oil supply for Japan, they said.

The sources added that Watanabe handed a letter to the Saudi authorities from Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa inviting Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to Tokyo.

Riyadh To Boost Oil Output

OW1301021592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0127 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh, Jan. 13 KYODO—Saudi Arabia is planning to boost its oil production to 10 million barrels per day by the beginning of 1995 from its current 8 million barrels, oil industry sources in Riyadh said Sunday.

Saudi Arabia expects world oil demand to increase in the long term, the sources told Japanese reporters accompanying Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe on his Saudi visit.

The sources expressed concern over an "environment tax," using taxes on oil and oil products, suggested in developed countries around the world as a means of environment conservation.

They urged that governments not impose petroleum taxes simply to boost revenues in the pretext of environment conservation. The world oil market has become unstable due to sluggish economies in major developed nations and the collapse of the Soviet Union, they said.

The former Soviet Union led the world in oil production in 1988 with 12 million barrels per day. But per-day production has declined to 9 million to 10 million barrels due to the nation's breakup into the Commonwealth of Independent States, the sources said.

They said the member countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can increase production to cope with that drop in production if the rate of decline is moderate.

King Fahd Received Message From Kuwaiti Amir

LD1501214192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Jan (SPA)—The second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz, received his Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah in his office this afternoon. The latter handed him a letter for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz al Sa'ud, from his brother the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the ambassador of Kuwait to the Kingdom, 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad al-Bakr.

Finance Minister Discusses Government Development Plan

LD1501092592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 12 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency Sahykh Muhammad al-'Ali Aba-al-Khayl, finance and national economy minister, today opened the third conference on the development of Saudi exports. The conference is being organized by the Center for the Development of Saudi Exports at the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce in Jeddah.

During the conference, which began with recitations from the Koran, Minister Aba-al-Khayl made a speech detailing government policies in the field of economic development in our country. He noted the great successes in which these policies have culminated.

The minister said: Government policy focused at the start of the launch of national development on construction of infrastructure and on spreading it to all parts of the kingdom with much greater energy than was then expected, in order to absorb the maximum probability of expansion in the civilian sector and in demographic increase.

He pointed out that the other aspect of the government's policy is working to diversify the national economy at all levels and stages of development planning in order to pull the Saudi economy out of dependence on the export of a single commodity—crude oil.

His Excellency dealt with another of the main policies of the government economic development, represented by giving priority to the private sector to lead national development through large programs in order to support the civilian sector's development in many channels including government expenditure, whether through direct loans to the civilian sector or through expansion of goods and services needs.

The minister of finance and national economy told his audience that domestic output increased in the last two decades at a rate of 5.6 percent a year in real terms. Its volume increased approximately threefold. He said: "This has rarely happened in the history of the modern world economy."

His Excellency said that the nonoil civilian sector grew in the last two decades at a faster rate, reaching 8.2 percent a year in real terms. With the onset of the end of the fourth development plan, it now represents 51 percent of an economy seeing a volume much larger than before. He said that the value of the gross product of the nonoil sector has increased 27 times between the years 1970 to 1990. As for the civilian sector alone, Minister Aba-al-Khayl said that "the value of its product increased 22 times over during the same period." He stressed that investment in oil refineries and production installations changed the nature of oil exports, which had been confined to just one commodity: crude oil.

The minister said: "Other exports grew from almost zero to more than 16 billion rials by the beginning of last year."

Then Minister Aba-al-Khayl spoke about the external economic relations of the state. He said that "the state has moved with effectiveness to create suitable conditions for the widening of trade relations. It worked for the signing of bilateral and regional economic and technical agreements, set up with a number of states' joint commissions, and established with neighboring countries frameworks for joint action." He stressed once again that the government policy is aimed at directly enabling the civilian sector to embark on the establishment of production facilities and providing all forms of assistance for construction and production and the reduction of production costs. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, Isma'il Da'ud, delivered a speech at the start of the conference referring to the great importance the state and the private sector attach to the development of exports. He pointed out that the number of producing factories carrying out regular export operations totals 425, according to a survey carried out by the Ministry of Industry and Electricity. He also noted that the private sector's exports amounted to 3.271 billion rials in 1989 in comparison with 933 million rials in 1986. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Japan's Watanabe Discusses Oil Cooperation

JN1601152892 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and natural resources, met this morning with Kozo Watanabe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, who is currently visiting the country.

The two sides discussed aspects of oil cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and Japan, within the framework of their distinctive bilateral relations. Means of contributing to reinforcing cooperation in all areas of the oil industry were also discussed.

The two sides focused on the importance of increasing bilateral cooperation to include various economic aspects, as well as cooperation in the field of energy.

Japanese Ambassador Tateki Yoneyama also attended the meeting.

Desalination Technology Offered

JN1701075792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Jan (WAKH)—Kozo Watanabe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, has expressed his country's hope that Kuwait will soon be restored to the full oil production and export capacity it had achieved before the sinful Iraqi invasion. During a press conference held here today, he said that his country, which adopts a policy of free economy, is eager to make a positive economic contribution to international relations. In this context, he proposed the opening of a permanent Japanese office in Dubayy to activate economic cooperation between Japan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He said that UAE Trade Minister Sa'id Ghabbash welcomed the idea of opening such an office soon.

The Japanese minister stated that his country is ready for fruitful cooperation in the use of Japanese technology for water desalination, desert reclamation, and development in the Gulf states. He said that he had made proposals in this regard to officials in the region and that the best response had come from the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Invitation to Multilateral Talks in Moscow Received

JN1601185792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received the Russian Federation and U.S. ambassadors to our country. During the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali received a letter of invitation to the government of the Republic of Yemen to participate in the work of the third multilateral phase of the international peace conference, which will be held in Moscow on 29 January.

The brother minister affirmed that the government of the Republic of Yemen will study the contents of the invitation.

Saddam Speech Marks War Anniversary

JN1701093892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0805 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on 17 January to mark the first anniversary of the Gulf war, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O great people, o brave mujahidin in our valiant armed forces; o sincere believers in our glorious nation; o freemen of the world: As I noted in my 6 January 1992 speech, on this day last year, the two gatherings already had mobilized what they could. Those who represented the state of degeneration and vice in more than 30 countries stood in the trench of atheism, aggression, and treason. They had the devil in their eyes, hearts, and conscience, driving them to do what they did. On the opposite side, there stood the Iraqi gathering of the faithful, embodying the position, the entire history of the nation, and the depth of humanity as represented by those who have been honored by God through their position toward us and their interaction with us.

This day a year ago, the villains of infidelity and the treacherous gathering overwhelmed the minds of those who obeyed them. The criminals set a target. They fell from the edge of their last remaining links to humanity when they fired at the gathering of the honest believers. Also this day a year ago, the will of God remained victorious in the minds, hearts, and conscience of the people of Iraq, who said no to injustice, atheism, treason, and treachery. God's angels stood to praise God and to obey His will, praying for everything that He wants and accepts.

With the first bomb that hit Baghdad, a wound as deep as our just cause opened in the body of our beloved city, our nation's symbol of glory. The faithful voice of God is Great, submitting to God but remaining strong against the oppressors, was raised in every house.

The same voice echoed along the front of the stalwart men facing the front of those who had bartered guidance for error. The voice echoed in every corner of the earth, and among the faithful there was a response to it.

I say with certainty that the voice also was repeated by every free Arab woman, by every faithful Muslim woman, and by every genuine, free Arab man. It was repeated by every Arab woman who is of the same caliber as the woman who, while in 'Ammuriyah, called on [Abbaside caliph] al-Mu'tasim for help after being treated unjustly by those who had insulted the spirit of the nation within her.

Thus, fighting broke out, the battle raged, and the faith inside us triumphed. Angels saw a good omen in those who truly expressed the will of God. The souls of the nation's martyrs certainly were there.

The criminals used everything that the devil wanted them to use. The people of Iraq, with patience and perseverance, were relying on their great faith in God and His power and, first and foremost, on the justness of their position after their sons had made ready the steeds of war to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God and their enemy. We fired the missiles of faith and they came down on the forward positions of falsehood, aggression, and treachery. Some came down on the centers of the arrogant and criminal Zionism. There also was the valiant resistance of our armed forces with all of its formations and courageous mujahidin men.

Brothers, a year ago, 12 months ago, the evil, faithless criminals boarded the boat of aggression and aggressiveness in its ugliest form and on the largest possible scale. They committed a crime against the people of Iraq and against the Arab nation and its spirit; a crime that amounted to the same level of evil which the criminals had committed at the time of the heavenly messages and revelations against the faithful, the prophets, and the saints.

For their aggression and aggressiveness, the criminals set out from a land in which the last of the heavenly messages, which God had intended for all humanity, was born. They launched the crime from the land of Najd and Hejaz, the sweet-scented land which every honorable Muslim and every true believer knows and can recall its meanings.

Six months after a comprehensive land, sea, and air economic blockade against the great Iraqi people, the aggressors committed their dirty crime by mounting their major offensive from the land of revelation. During this same period, a media, psychological, and political warfare was launched, involving all those who did not hold faith in their hearts or in whom faith did not find its way into their conscience as a result of material temptations or threats. It was a paradox that God wanted for a purpose, a purpose for which our minds can be worked to comprehend only some of its dimensions. However, only God is omniscient.

This paradox constituted an incitement for every faithful soul to adopt a profound and extensive stand on the aggression of the aggressors. It was a paradox that officials in the land of faith and revelation, in the birthplace of the Prophet, in the land where the message had been revealed, instead of maintaining its history, they agreed that this land would be desecrated by the feet of the infidel, the treacherous ones, and would be a theater for their operations. Mecca, and the land of Hejaz, the birthplace of the great prophet, Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, was close to the models which were most indicative of a persistence in polytheism, represented in Hubal [an idol the Arabs used to worship before Islam], the most prominent idol and the most conspicuous symbol of polytheism. The paradox was that this same polytheism has extended to our present age, with an amendment being introduced to its models. There are Arab rulers who have betrayed all principles. Here, the Iraqi people

have adhered to faith and have understood the message with all of its values, principles, and duties.

If there was a Hubal in the past, then it has now been replaced with a human Hubal, endowed with the gift of speech and a mind only able to lead him to the abyss of Satan. Here in Iraq, the believers stood with no barriers between them and their reliance on God. In both cases, and on both sides of the duel, God Almighty was the judge between the two stands—one on the path of polytheism, infidelity, and vice, and the other on the path of faith, monotheism, and virtues that safeguard and glorify people in this world and the hereafter. In both cases, God Almighty, the omnipotent judge, high in His heavens, will pass His judgments. What happened was inevitable.

They were two opposite gatherings. At that particular place and at that particular moment, God wanted the gathering of the faithful to seem less in number and equipment, and He wanted the gathering of infidelity and evil, treason and treachery, the supporters of Abu-Lahab and Abu-Jahl [bitter rivals of the Prophet Muhammad], to be greater in number and equipment.

Eighteen million, supported by the people of faith and piety, stood against 1 billion people in the states of aggression, who harbored the most evil intentions of crime, treachery, and vice. This huge material and technical difference was an indication for the believers to conclude that God Almighty wanted this to be the greatest showdown and sacrifice since the [Islamic] message. The miracle of the showdown was attained; faith triumphed over atheism, and right triumphed over wrong. If anyone viewed the battle from a conventional and material viewpoint, then he would conclude nothing but that the gathering of the faithful had been defeated and that the gathering of infidelity, vice, and corruption had emerged victorious.

Despite what has happened, O brave Iraqi men, glorious Iraqi women, and faithful Arabs, you are obeying God's will. You are proceeding to uphold and complete the message you conveyed to humanity and to the sons of your nation from the midst of the flames of aggression and the unjust blockade, so that the miracle of the age can reap every good and permissible fruit. God willing, the end is for those who are virtuous. [last sentence part of Koranic verse]

Here, brothers, lies the essence of the answer to those who have wondered about the slogan of faith, zeal, gallantry, and optimism which we uttered the morning of the first day of the aggression—namely, "How sweet is victory with God's help." Some people have wondered how we could say this under such circumstances and in a battle where, as they had calculated and believed, we had no hope for victory given the disturbed balance of all material and technical powers. Some people also have wondered how the leader of one of the sides could verbally decide the result of the battle at the beginning of military operations. They have wondered how the leader of the gathering of the faithful and believers can talk about a victory not yet shown in battle, and how he could guarantee that this is inevitable.

The answer, brothers, is now clearer than it was that great day a year ago. For the side of faith, our side, the new dawn of that night brought a great victory to the history of the nation, a victory that already had been well established in the hearts, souls, and consciences. For the other side, however, it was a day of treachery, disgrace, and humiliation in the history of the aggressors and the treacherous ones, God willing.

This day of yours, O Iraqis and Arabs, is a day of pride and of inspiration with its virtues and glorious stands. As for their day, it deserves every bad description and the wrath of God.

I say that today the significance and meaning of the slogan which we shouted in the face of the unjust—namely, "How sweet is victory with God's help"—has become clear. Almighty God responded, making us in that affliction recall His words: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We said: O fire, be thou cool, and a means of safety for Abraham. [Koranic verse] Also: Then they planned against him, but we made them the greater losers. [Koranic verse]

The significance and meaning of this slogan are clear now that the victory of the believers has been proven to be in accordance with their constant faith and their living and growing connection with what God wants. No sinful aggressors can triumph over the Arab nation and faithful Iraq because their despicable deed is outside of God's will and contrary to the law of human rights as enshrined in God's teachings. Now everyone asks himself and others: Who triumphed after one and one-half years of blockade and after fighting against the gathering of infidelity? They did not dare to attack beautiful Baghdad, which is full of glory, pride, and faith, until they had gathered together more than 30 states.

Now also, the infidel gathering is pressed to answer this question. They cannot properly answer their women and children as they should because God wanted to grant victory to the faithful gathering and He wanted the message, which this time emanated from Baghdad with its great principles, to be conveyed in the broadest and deepest way possible. How sweet is victory with God's help.

Brothers, in our 6 January [Army Day] speech, we spoke about the contradictions that the nation's sons had felt between their glorious past—in terms of their nation's great triumphs over the enemies of God and its own enemies—and its present situation and the state of affairs of its army, contradictions that created double vision and a split personality. We repeat the same words now but with regard to another field of the nation's structure and its social, political, economic, and human areas in general.

The Holy Koran is the revelation of God, the one and only, and Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, God's prayers and

blessings be upon him, is the prophet whom God has chosen to deliver His message to humanity. Therefore, the paradox does not stem from the failure of any person in this nation, including those in power, to have knowledge of and to use eloquent language as close as possible to God Almighty's language—and one can never get close to such a language in terms of eloquence or come close to the example of his noble prophet, Muhammad, God's prayers and blessings be upon him. Rather, the paradox begins when one reads the history of the faithful companions of the prophet of God and the virtuous people who assumed responsibility after them in terms of jihad, courage, and heroism, and in terms of leadership, justice, and the managing of the people's affairs in a manner that pleases God and protects faith.

This duality in the personality of the sons of our nation goes deeper and gets even wider in the fields of economy, science, culture, arts, the running of government affairs, and the selection of individuals for a specific task when right is used as a cover for evil. It becomes more noticeable when they compare their condition today with the conditions that existed in their Baghdad 1,300 years ago and for 600 years after that; how it used to be a place for the prosperity of faith, virtue, glory, and a base for science, culture, and the arts.

This duality and feeling of injustice grow even greater in the personality of the Iraqi individual when he recalls that he is the closest in the nation in terms of geography to that glorious past and to all the meanings of commitment and representation which that closeness and association dictate. His burden grows greater and his thinking, position, and conduct are disturbed when he adds to the arena of faith that followed the Islamic call and to what Baghdad used to be to the history of all great civilizations that arose as minarets for humanity in all walks of life. These civilizations began 6,000 years ago in Ur, Babylon, Nineveh, and other cities. Some of those who failed to make a comparison between the past and present and who found their own correct explanation for the two times began to cast doubts to the extent that they started to say that these glorious believers and great builders may not have belonged to our nation and people. Thus, the doubts that arose from the failure to find the correct link and the true representation between the past and present not only were cast on the accuracy of our nation's history, but also were cast on the truth about the branches and the truth about their belonging, either through heredity or history, to those noble origins.

This could not have been rectified without examples that are very close, in one way or another, to the brightest links in our nation's glorious past, despite the fact that such a way and the desired results involve risks, hardships, requirements of a great jihad, and honorable sacrifices.

Brothers, every age has its own general and common laws with regard to capability and the possibility of influencing things. This is accompanied by fundamentals stemming from faith in principles and exalted values which please God. Estrangement has continued to exist between faith, accompanied by its inherited practices of fasting, prayers, pilgrimage, alms, and the saying that there is no God but God and that Muhammad is His prophet, and securing what should be synonymous to this faith in reality in terms of capability and the possibility of influencing things.

Every time they got frustrated with the possibility of changing the nation's life in accordance with the spirit of the examples that inhabited the nation during times of glory and deep faith, the believers used to retreat within themselves and in their homes and mosques to perform their duties toward God in their inherited abstract method and in an academic sense, if we can say so. When the phenomena of life and the conduct of rulers and the ruled became deeply involved in error and departed from the laws of a faithful and capable life, the believers became more and more isolated in the mosque and within themselves, cursing this situation without being able to change it in any radical and comprehensive way. There were some good attempts, which occurred in between these two cases, to introduce some changes, including attempts to take over power. However, these attempts failed to establish a faithful state on the one hand, and, on the other, to share with the advanced states the meaning of the capabilities and laws of the age, taking into consideration the distinguished characteristics of the nation.

Since the most important characteristic of capability, influence, and weight in this age is the ability to master science and technology, coupled with a strong, faithful, and modern army to protect accomplishments and to open the doors that used to be impenetrable to the nation's rights, the leadership in Iraq, along with the great Iraqi people, have realized all this. The march here was based on faith. We spared no effort to share, to some extent, with the capable people, the laws of their capability in this age after planting such laws deeply in our spiritual faith. We have spared no effort to build a capable and modern army which can defend the accomplishments of the prosperity we seek for our people and to make all of this the gate for brightness and a living example for our entire nation with the help of Almighty God.

Because this had been achieved in Iraq, the plotters against the nation became enraged. They coveted this nation, encouraged by some of the nation's rulers, who showed weak faith and weak commitment to the people and the nation and who held backward intellectual and scientific views and conduct with regard to the laws of this age. Without knowing these laws, faith—even in its hereditary, conventional practices—remains an abstract state, unable to have considerable affect or deep influence on people's lives.

Brothers, abstract faith, even in its formal known practices, remains unable to enjoy deep influence. Indeed, it becomes even less and prone to sabotage unless Arabs and Muslims master the ability to be creative in the field of science and technology and to have an effect in today's world through modern methods. There can be no economy or efficient, guaranteed, national, or faithful

economic activity, indeed no guaranteed faith, without true progress and ability in the fields of science and technology, and an effective military strength to back them.

Together with all of this, a prosperous economy should be a central target for the faithful and able state. Weakness brings evil and vice and allows bad habits to infiltrate our societies from outside. Iraq's new development derived its strength and determination from this concept and its implications.

In their base aggression, and through 114,000 raids, the aggressors destroyed much of what we had built. The bombs they dropped on Iraq, on its valiant Armed Forces, and on its children, women, and elderly encompassed some 108,000 tonnes of explosives—a destructive power equivalent to that of six atomic bombs like those dropped by the United States on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. They destroyed what they destroyed during air and rocket attacks and during the chapter of treason and treachery, which they had planned and assigned Iran to implement on the ground.

And they imposed an unjust blockade against Iraq. So far, this blockade has been in effect for a period half as long as the duration of the blockade imposed by the infidels 1,400 years ago against your forefather, the prophet of humanity, Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be upon him, and his companions in Mecca. But God is here, above us, in our conscience, hearts, and minds, and in the sight of every believer among us. And God's angels are among us, praising Him and supporting those who support His cause. Our faith remained strong, thank God, and our will, from end to end in Iraq, remained firm, faithful, and strong with God's help and support.

Our economy had relied on our sales of oil, and we knew that such an economy is, in one way or another, subject to the international market's influence and the oil-purchasing capitalist states. We did what we did to improve this situation. But, given the fact that the pattern of economy and life was profoundly and completely changed, God wanted what happened to happen —the 30-state aggression. It is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you. [last sentence Koranic verse]

Despite the blockade, we are constructing today what the evil aggressors had destroyed. The wounds of our economy will heal, God willing, and it will prosper permanently and without fluctuation. It will continue to develop as long as it is supported by the deep and great faith of the people of the two rivers and assisted by the builders among this great people, who, after relying on God, raise the immortal slogan of "accursed be the impossible." They will turn the Baghdad they love into a source of great light for faith and glory.

As Baghdad was, in the past, for all Muslims and Arabs, supporting them along the path of right, so it will in this age as well give them strength. It will provide them with extensive knowledge, advanced technology, and a developed and prosperous economy based on this knowledge and technology, as well as on other things. All this depends on deep, great, and comprehensive faith; and all this will have an arm to protect it.

Mercy and glory for martyrs. God is great, and might and victory to great Iraq. Long live Iraq; long live Iraq. God is great, and might to our glorious nation. Long live the honest, faithful humanity. Long live Palestine, free and Arab. Long live the mujahidin of Palestine and the mujahid, steadfast people of Palestine. How sweet is victory with God's help. God is great, and accursed be the lowly, the enemies of God, and the assistants of Satan. God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you, brothers.

National Assembly Special Session Recalls War

JN1701074692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of love and pride from the representatives of the people on the first anniversary of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq. In a cable sent at the conclusion of a National Assembly session this evening, the representatives of the people pledged to the leader president to march in the front lines toward making a bright future for our nation. [passage omitted]

To mark the first anniversary of the epic of the Mother of Battles and the sinful 30-state aggression against Iraq, the National Assembly held a special session today under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. The session began with the audience reciting the al-Fatihah [the first chapter of the Koran] to pray for mercy for the souls of the virtuous martyrs. Mr. Salih then delivered a speech in which he recalled the sinful American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against our rising Iraq, the Iraq of jihad, construction, and steadfastness. That agression was a rancorous conspiracy against the Arab nation and its strong and advanced fortress, great Iraq, given Iraq's rapid rise and the civilized and intelligent structure of the Iraqi people.

Mr. Salih stressed that the Mother of Battles has revealed the standards and colonial features of the new world order, an order which seeks to plunder people's wealth and keep them hostage to backwardness and subservience. The Mother of Battles also unleashed the steel will of the Iraqi people, who shouted the most courageous no to the American-Zionist tyranny.

Officials Cable Saddam on Gulf War Anniversary

JN1601123792 [Editorial Report]

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 15 January broadcasts two 4-minute "texts" of cables to President Saddam Husayn from Taha Muhi-al-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, and from Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid "on the

first anniversary of the beginning of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq."

Ma'ruf's cable maintains that "the main aim of the aggression was to undermine Iraq's nationalist rule, destroy Iraq's economic structure, and hinder the country's progress" under Saddam Husayn's leadership. Noting that "brute force" can never defeat faith, he says: "It is pride enough for Iraq that the enemies failed to achieve the main objectives of their aggression, despite all their criminal ways and practices." He expresses confidence that the Iraqi people will continue the reconstruction campaign.

For his part, the defense minister notes the treachery of some Arabs and their military and financial participation in the "aggression." He says: "For the Iraqis, for the Arab generations, and for all honorable in the world, history will record your heroic, jihad position, and your courageous leadership by gathering the faithful and brave men of Iraq against the gathering of atheism, tyranny, and agentry." He contends that the "immortal Mother of Battles will remain a decisive battle in the contemporary history of our Arab nation because it produced values of manhood and noble principles and because it unveiled the masked faces that were aligned with foreigners and were used to plot against the Arabs." He says that the believers have prevailed over their enemies, and adds: "Iraq remained proud of its people and bold leader, engaged in a new stage of jihad, the phase of construction and reconstruction to repair what the villains had damaged under the shadow of the unjust blockade against our brave people."

The defense minister vows continued allegiance to Saddam and pledges that the Armed Forces will continue to carry "the brandished sword and protective shield of great Iraq." He adds: "We will work diligently and earnestly to build the national and pan-Arab ideological army that enjoys high readiness for any honorable pan-Arab battle required by the Arab nation."

Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 16 January broadcasts a 5-minute "text" of a similar cable to President Saddam Husayn from Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al- Zubaydi. The prime minister praises Saddam's leadership and jihad and notes the intimate relationship between the leader and the people. He refers to the heroism and diligent efforts of the Iraqis and promises that the construction drive will continue unabated.

National Assembly Awards People's Medal to Saddam

JN1601173292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today was awarded the People's Medal by his people in appreciation of his excellency's role in liberating the country from colonialism, in the comprehensive construction of the new life, in repulsing the covetous waves in the Arabs' second al-Qadisiyah, and in confronting the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. Awarding his excellency with the People's Medal is in accordance with a unanimous decision by the people's representatives.

A major function took place on this occasion and was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan and Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC members and vice presidents; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister; and Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, minister of defense.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih delivered a speech in which he said: The assembly members are meeting now, having in mind the people's desires, hopes, and aspirations. We have sensed the Iraqis' desire to express their pride in their faithful son and mujahid leader while following him in his unique leadership at a time when Iraq is drawing the picture of its right future.

He added: It has become clear to the world that the unity between the people and leader is the secret of this pride and progress in all fields. The forces of evil, led by America and Zionism, targeted this great people through their leader, and hatched plots against the person of the leader to assassinate an entire people.

In his speech, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the colonialist conspiracies against Iraq and its weight in history until the 14 July 1958 Revolution and later the 17-30 July 1968 Revolution. This is when the revolution found a leader who can translate its revolutionary nature, when leader President Saddam Husayn took on the top position in the state and the party.

Defense Ministry Moves To Fortified Building

NC1701100992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] The dictatorial regime has moved the Defense Ministry to the old Oil Ministry building, constructing a fortified concrete wall and deploying a brigade of republican and private guards and Iranian Mujahedin-e Khalq forces to protect it. Posts for medium- caliber machine guns have been set up round the building.

Fliers Distributed on Start of 'Uprising'

NC1501183292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] The unified Iraqi front [al-jabhatu al-'iraqiyyatu al- muwahhadah] has distributed fliers in Mosul and its suburbs with warnings to members of the party, intelligence, and security at all levels. They were told to stay at home until the joint forces [not further identified] come in, not to travel on the streets, and to hand in their weapons to the uprising forces.

The fliers contained the following: In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. We bring you good tidings that the joint forces of the unified Iraqi front,

which consists of the sons of the Iraqi people supported by friends from abroad, will soon enter your city. They will storm the dens of treachery and eliminate the fascist regime in Iraq. The starting point will be in the Governorate of Ninawah, and history will record that its sons are ones of principles and high morality. Therefore, we ask all citizens to adhere to the following instructions:

1. To protect their lives and properties, citizens are asked not to go to party headquarters and departments.

2. They are asked not to cooperate with security, intelligence, and secret service men, or with the suspect Ba'th organization against the revolutionaries of the uprising, or to reveal any information on their locations.

3. They are asked to go out on the streets and help the uprising forces with all means available at their disposal.

4. They are asked to shut the doors of their homes and shops to protect their property.

5. When they see anyone stealing, they are asked to inform the concerned parties.

6. When the first eruption of the revolution's active volcano is heard and the advance toward Baghdad starts, they are asked to arrest agents, mercenaries, traitors, and those collaborating with them.

7. The Arab tribes around and in the other governorates are called upon to start helping and cooperating through all means available to defeat the regime in Baghdad, because this is their revolution.

Government Attack in Marshlands Repulsed

NC1601172392 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] An Iraqi opposition group has announced that its fighters (?foiled an attack) by the Iraqi regime's forces in the southern marshlands and downed two military helicopters.

An Iraqi opposition spokesman told REUTER in Damascus that the 47th Division [unit designation as heard] of the 11th Brigade of the so-called Republican Guard launched an attack last Tuesday on the southern marshlands near al-Basrah. The spokesman added that the Iraqi opposition fighters succeeded in destroying the division and seized 40 boats and large quantities of weapons and ammunition.

Popular Forces Repel Army Attacks in Basra

LD1601203492 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—The Iraqi Army has launched attacks in two axes on marshlands in the southern province of Basra, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) quoting eyewitnesses said in a statement Thursday.

According to the statement, one of the attacks launched by two brigades of the Republican Guards supported by heavy artillery, gunboats and helicopters, was repelled by the popular forces who inflicted heavy human and material losses on the attacking troops.

The second attack was launched by Brigade 47 of Division 11 which was completely destroyed after 12 hours of fierce battle with the popular forces. Big quantities of weapons and military equipments were captured and two helicopters were downed, added the statement.

The statement quoting sources inside Iraq added the Iraqi regime has executed a group of soldiers who refused to participate in the attacks.

Meanwhile, last week, the Iraqi troops launched a major attack on the marshlands of Nasiriyah Province and heavily bombed residential areas and medical centres, the sources added.

The popular forces and the tribes of the region launched a counter-offensive and forced the attacking troops to flee leaving behind heavy losses, the SAIRI statement added.

Kurds To Halt Talks With Regime, Elect Leader

NC1601181992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Kurdish leaders said yesterday they will halt peace and autonomy talks with the government of tyrant Saddam Husayn and will hold elections to select a leader for the Kurdistan Front.

The front of eight Kurdish parties said the elections, which Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani are to discuss, will be held by 3 April. The front added that it will officially inform the tyrant's regime that it has stopped the negotiations until the economic and administrative siege on the Kurdish-controlled area in northern Iraq is lifted.

The front's decision has ended months of dispute and division among the Iraqi Kurdish leaders over talks with the tyrant's regime.

Shamir Discusses Future Elections, Peace Process

TA1701071692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 17 Jan 92 pp 1, 28

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shim'on Schiffer on 16 January; place not given: "I Only Lack One Vote To Maintain This Government"]

[Text] [YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Mr. Prime Minister, have you already begun your election campaign?

[Shamir] I never run; I walk quickly.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Has the government reached the end of the road?

[Shamir] What is the end of the road? We have reached a certain stage. That is not the end of the road. We are approaching the end of the government's tenure anyway. Even if the elections are brought forward, it will only be by several months, and all the previous governments also called early elections.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Let us put the question differently: Do you intend to go to the president next week and submit your resignation?

[Shamir] It is true that a certain change has taken place in the government now. Let us assume that these ministers [Moledet's Ze'evi and Tehiya's Ne'eman] leave. We still have various options, and going to the president is only one of them. We will hold consultations, decide, and do all that is necessary.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What is the alternative?

[Shamir] The government can be maintained in various ways. After all, we only lack one vote to reach 60. We can jointly agree on an acceptable date for early elections, with the government remaining in power until that date. There are a number of ways.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Where will you find the missing vote?

[Shamir] There may be those who decide, for their own reasons, that the continued existence of this government until the scheduled date for elections in November is convenient for them.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Are you considering approaching Labor and getting what they call "a safety net" for your government?

[Shamir] I do not count on that. I will not base my actions on that and I will not make any agreements with Labor.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Why do you not take the initiative and decide that it is time to hold elections and stop the blackmail by the small parties?

[Shamir] Because I do not think that is the only way. If the government will not have a majority, we will call elections, but why do you not ask me what brought us to this point?

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Okay, what brought you to this point?

[Shamir] Our government, the Likud government, is totally loyal to its principles, to Eretz Yisra'el, and to the continuous effort to reach peace. We act on these two principles. It is a fact that up until today, no one would have said that there was any government in recent years that has done as much for the preservation of Eretz Yisra'el. On the other hand, and in parallel, there was no other government that joined a peace process, kept it alive, and will continue to pursue it in the future. We are promoting this process because we are loyal to our principles. Therefore, we could not show these groups, who decided to leave the government, any flexibility.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Are you disappointed with the positions taken by Tehiya and Moledet?

[Shamir] It is a fact. It was no surprise to me. I think they are making a mistake, and I see no logic in their decision. They made this decision for their own reasons. I have no control over that.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you not think that it was a mistake to let Rehav'am Ze'evi join the government?

[Shamir] It makes no difference now. He was in the government for one year. I did not make a mistake.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] But Ze'evi always held a gun to the government's head.

[Shamir] In Israel, everyone wants to outdo all others in the causticity of their comments. An example of such extreme comments is the allusion to a gun at our head. We are not talking about violence here. The fact of the matter is that we did not accept his demands.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Did Ze'evi succeed in preventing progress on the peace process?

[Shamir] No. The process continued to move forward while Ze'evi and the Tehiya were presenting their demands.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Will the process continue? Will the talks with the Arabs and the Palestinians continue even if an interim government is set up?

[Shamir] The peace process will continue. As far as we are concerned, we will promote it as much as we can. Certain limitations may be imposed by the special situation.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Perhaps you can summarize what you are offering the Palestinians. Are you offering them autonomy?

[Shamir] We have a platform for the peace talks which is based on the peace initiatives we have supported over the past few years. These are based on the Camp David accords. Our teams have prepared several different proposals to reach an arrangement.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] But what are you offering the Palestinians?

[Shamir] I will divulge no details. These will be revealed in the course of the negotiations.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] How do you regard the attempts by settlers to establish protest settlements in the territories following the murders in their area?

[Shamir] The settlers' pain is understandable. The settlers in Judaea and Samaria have become the targets of Arab terror. This pain, however, does not justify acting outside of the security framework which is the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] responsibility. I think that any disruption of the IDF's activity is harmful, dangerous, and should be prevented. I highly respect these people, who show the utmost dedication, and I hold them dear. I am terribly hurt each time one of them is injured. I also believe that we must take action to prevent any violence against the Arab and non-Jewish population of Eretz Yisra'el.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Would you be willing to explain why you were so vehemently opposed to the proposals for electoral reform?

[Shamir] I felt that the proposed bill would not have improved the existing state of affairs in Israel and would not have strengthened the foundations of government.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] The polls show that if Yitzhaq Rabin were to lead the Labor Party against you, the Likud would lose. Did this encourage you to oppose electoral reform.

[Shamir] Rubbish. First of all, Labor has not chosen its candidate yet. Second, the matter is not up to me. I am not afraid. It will not be me versus Rabin but rather the Likud versus Labor. I do not fear the results of that confrontation.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you therefore intend to lead the Likud in the upcoming Knesset elections?

[Shamir] If I am chosen, I will decide whether to undertake that mission.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you still have the strength for another election campaign and to continue leading the party?

[Shamir] I do not see any serious reasons at the moment that could prevent me from accepting the party's will.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you not feel a certain relief now that the current situation could lead to early elections?

[Shamir] This is no relief. On the contrary, it is a burden. We are in the midst of a struggle to realize the Israeli people's most important aspirations. There is nothing bigger or more important than this combination of the struggle to preserve the integrity of Eretz Yisra'el and to achieve peace. I believe in this combination with all my heart and soul. We will continue to pursue this, and we will succeed with the help of the majority of the public.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] So perhaps you are willing to say when, in your estimation, the Knesset elections will be held.

[Shamir] Sometime up to November. I do not know when.

Meets With Degel Hatora, Seeks Jun Elections

TA1701114792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wants to hold the elections around June, but he believes that there is no urgent need to make a decision on this issue in the next few days. Shamir said this to Degel Hatora Knesset members [MK's] with whom he met this morning in a bid to coordinate a date that will be agreed on by all the coalition members. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Gutman] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not seem hard-pressed in his moves toward moving up the elections. Today he met with two ministers who are politically close to him: Moshe Nisim and Dan Meridor. Shamir also met with Degel Hatora MK's Avraham Ravitz and Moshe Gafni. This meeting was the opening shot in the round of consultations with the religious partners on early elections. Degel Hatora accepts the idea of advancing the elections, the MK's told us after the meeting. [passage omitted]

As for the date, Shamir now speaks of June as a desirable date for the elections. At the same time, Shamir has not yet decided when to bring up a motion for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections.

Comments on Latest Round of Peace Talks

TA1701130492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Hans van den Broek during their meeting in Jerusalem that an election campaign in Israel will not disrupt the orderly handling of the negotiations with the Arabs.

The prime minister described the latest round of talks in Washington as more effective than the previous one because the delegations were able to conduct a comprehensive exchange of views and positions.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the issue of settlements was also discussed. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 17 January carries a related report adding that "the prime minister reemphasized to his guest that the State of Israel does not accept the assumption that a ban should apply to Jews taking up residence in Judaea and Samaria." In a recorded passage in English, Van den Broek replies: "But what we have noted is very clear preoccupation on the Arab and Palestinian side about the continuing further establishment of settlements, because they have the feeling that this at least prejudices the outcome of negotiations, be it on autonomy or on sovereignty. We know that Israel takes a different view here, at least the

government takes a different view. We have only said we should really hope that this is not going to let the negotiations go astray."]

Moledet Decides To Quit Government 'At Once'

TA1601192992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Interview with Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi in the Tel Aviv studio by anchorman Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, who has just come from a Moledet Executive meeting, is in our Tel Aviv studio. Good evening, Minister Ze'evi. What has your party decided?

[Ze'evi] Moledet has decided to leave the Likud-led government at once.

[Sukenik] Minister Ze'evi, will your party try to make the Likud's job easier in the coming days, or will you do everything to topple this government as soon as possible?

[Ze'evi] Because of two grave sins, this government must disappear from the face of the earth. The first sin is the fiasco in handling the intifadah, which has gone on for 49 months without a sufficient answer by this—or the former—government; we have reached the 100th intifadah fatality. The second deed that we consider to be grave is the decision to grant autonomy to the Palestinians, even if it is called by other, nicer-sounding names.

[Sukenik] What will it be then? Will your party topple the government when the next opportunity presents itself?

[Ze'evi] This government should be toppled, and the sooner the better. Elections should be held—the sooner the better.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you very much, Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi.

[Ze'evi] Thank you.

Peres Ready To Discuss Election Date With Shamir

TA1701120392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The Labor Party is talking about bringing forward its primaries to choose a new Labor Party leader who will contest the elections. Chairman Shim'on Peres was out this morning in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Wadi Nisnas, in Haifa. Reporter Sylvia Leif asked him what would happen if Labor's no-confidence motion later this month fails and the Likud then decided unilaterally on an election date. Would it not be better to coordinate the date with the Likud?

[Begin recording] [Peres] I don't think that Mr. Shamir can single-handedly decide on the date of the elections. We are the largest group in the parliament, and I think that even the Likud understands there is no way to arrive at an agreed time without prior discussions between our parties. If the Likud will ask us to talk about dates of elections, we shall not refuse.

[Leif] As far as the strife over the elections is concerned, don't you feel that that is actually disrupting the peace process?

[Peres] I think it endangers and maybe extends the peace process unnecessarily, and for that reason I am for shortening the time of the campaign and have the elections as soon as possible. The interior minister has said that we can have elections in 60 days. Let's have it in 60 days. [end recording]

Labor: Government 'Unworthy of Confidence'

TA1601203192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The Labor Bureau decided today that the Shamir government is unworthy of confidence and that the briefer its existence, the better for the state.

The Labor Party will prepare for early elections, and party secretary general and Knesset faction chairman will consider possible dates for early elections. [passage omitted]

Arens on Early Elections, Future of Peace Process

TA1701065292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Defense Minister Moshe Arens. You have been accused by Moledet of castrating the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in its struggle against the intifadah in the territories. Is that indeed the case?

[Arens] Well, because you are referring to remarks by Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, we all know that he thinks all the problems can be solved by a transfer, by expelling the Arab population. This is not the government's policy. In my opinion, this would also not bring about the results that Minister Ze'evi thinks it would. If this is what he calls castration, let him, but he is simply wrong.

[Einstein] It seems to me that the settlers are also demanding a much firmer hand and are not very satisfied with the IDF's activities. In fact, they too called for your resignation yesterday. What is your reaction to this?

[Arens] Look, we have a wave of terror which is accompanying the political process today, but we will curb it. We—the IDF, as well as the other security services—are making a great effort for this. Still, every time a terrorist incident takes place, we hear irresponsible remarks from small but vocal groups of Judaea and Samaria settlers. What is worse is that we also witness irresponsible and illegal acts on their part, and neither these remarks nor these deeds contribute to security in the area.

[Einstein] Still, the people claim they do not have a sense of security.

[Arens] When terror reigns, this surely affects one's sense of security. Incidentally, this is not only the problem of the Judaea and Samaria settlers, but also of the entire state and people of Israel. This is not the first time that we have confronted terrorism, and we shall prevail.

[Einstein] With your permission, sir, I would like to move to the political repercussions of this move by Moledet and Tehiya. In your opinion, should the government continue to function normally on a narrow basis while relying on the safety net promised by the left-wing parties?

[Arens] I do not think we can rely on any net. According to Israeli law, the government functions as a caretaker government after a no-confidence motion, even if it does not enjoy a Knesset majority, but I have no doubt that we should hold early elections under the present circumstances. In order to call early elections, a bill must be passed in the Knesset—namely, there should be a Knesset majority to set an election date. I hope that such a majority will indeed exist, and we should then hold early elections as soon as possible.

[Einstein] In your opinion, sir, what will come of the bilateral and multilateral talks? Will or rather can the peace process continue in this situation?

[Arens] The present government has made the promotion of the peace process its policy, and I have no doubt that even if the government does not enjoy a Knesset majority as a result of the withdrawal of Tehiya and Moledet, we will continue to promote peace. As is known, these movements were not the greatest supporters of peace even when they were inside the government. So, nothing has changed in this respect.

[Einstein] Would you say that with their resignation they are sabotaging the peace process?

[Arens] I do not want to use strong language...

[Einstein, interrupting] You know that Rehav'am Ze'evi himself used this word, saying it is good to sabotage this process.

[Arens] Well, I need not repeat his words. Still, the position of these movements are known, and I believe they did not support the current negotiations and contacts.

[Einstein] Yes, it is impossible to make a mistake on this.

Minister Magen Discusses Possible Election Dates

TA1601163992 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Interview with Economics and Planning Minister David Magen by Rafi Reshef; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reshef] Have you talked with the prime minister today?

[Magen] I spoke with the prime minister on the phone very late last night; I was a party to a phone consultation. I believe the media reports about the recent ministerial consultations have been accurate.

[Reshef] There appears to be an inclination to seek an accord with Labor regarding the election date.

[Magen] The matter is very simple: The date stipulated by law is 3 November, and there is an inclination in the Knesset, as well as in the Likud, to bring the elections forward. It is a long-standing tradition that whenever elections are not held on a date specified by the law, the date is determined through an agreement between the two largest parties. We intend to seek Labor's agreement for a June or early July date, thereby curtailing this Knesset's term by four months.

[Reshef] Is there a definite date?

[Magen] There is no definite date as yet. I have heard that several dates in June have been mentioned, and I assume that if the government does lose its majority and negotiations for early elections ensue, we will examine June and early July for possible dates.

[Reshef] The inclination then is toward a minority, rather than an interim, government.

[Magen] We prefer to be an elected government, rather than an interim one, but we must be realistic. In the absence of a solid majority of 61 Knesset members, one should be prepared for the possibility that the Knesset will vote no confidence in the government. The thing that annoys me most is that it is against the backdrop of progress in the peace process that this government is losing power. It is a shame; it is a shame that the government is losing its majority just as it is attempting to exhaust every chance for peace. I still hope we will be able to convince the relevant parties to go back on their positions and to resume partnership in this supreme mission of promoting the peace process.

[Reshef] Is the date convenient from the Likud's viewpoint, David Magen? Isn't the issue of guarantees on the agenda? We have been hearing repeatedly that Yitzhaq Shamir asked them [Tehiya and Moledet] very anxiously to postpone their resignation so as to help secure a positive response to our request for loan guarantees, which is due to be submitted to Washington at the end of the month and which is due to be answered in late February.

[Magen] There is no connection. In my view—and as the economics and planning minister I am allowed to express one—the U.S. loan guarantees in the sum of $2 billion will be granted in the course of February. There is no connection between this and the political crisis in Israel. About 120 days ago the Americans promised to grant the guarantees; the 120-day waiting period is almost over, and I am positive—I am almost convinced—that the guarantees will be granted.

[Reshef] With all due respect, allow me to suggest a hypothesis for the sake of argument: If, despite everything, they do refuse because of the absence of progress in the peace process, will the Likud be harmed?

[Magen] We will pursue our political efforts and keep our commitments to other countries, and I believe that in the end the guarantees will be given. If they are not, I assume that the Israeli economy will find a way to cope, even without them.

[Reshef] Thank you very much, Minister David Magen.

Levi Urges Continued Commitment to Autonomy Plan

TA1601202292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi fears for the future of the peace negotiations, which he has promoted throughout the past year and which he discussed with Shamir tonight. Today he cautions: The government has a commitment to the process according to its guidelines; the process should be pursued despite all that is happening.

Today the foreign minister discussed this issue with his Dutch counterpart, Hans van den Broek, who arrived here from Syria and Jordan. After the meeting, Levi and his guest lined up for the cameras:

[Begin Levi recording] The possibility of an alternative government of any sort does not seem feasible. I do not think the opposition will gain anything by playing the game of government toppling, because by doing so, it will be toppling the peace process.

Some people believe that if we renege on our initiative and renounce autonomy, we will be in a better position. They think Israel will gain by that step. I think that if that happened, God forbid, Israel would find itself in an extremely difficult and delicate position. First, we would be betraying the confidence people have placed in us. Second, Israel would be the one torpedoing the process, which—people would think—it had never meant to pursue. The entire issue will be moved to another arena, and even if later we change our minds, we will be able to do nothing. It is therefore in the interest of the State of Israel to adhere to the process and to promote it. [end recording]

Peace Talks Delegation Returns, Views Elections

TA1701113792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The Israel delegation to the Washington peace talks returned home this morning. Members of the delegation told journalists at the airport that the government crisis and the possibility of early elections will not necessarily affect the peace process.

Uri Lubrani, chief negotiator with Lebanon, stayed in the U.S. capital and, according to earlier reports, is continuing his efforts for the release of Israeli prisoners and missing in action in Lebanon.

Dozens of Settlers Return to West Bank Settlement

TA1701073192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Dozens of Samaria settlers have returned to the outpost they had set up in Yad Ya'ir. This is reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld. The settlers are headed by Micky Mendelsohn, the widow of Ya'ir, who was murdered at the site about a year ago.

Leave Yad Ya'ir at Army's Request

TA1701151892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the settlers who had been holding a protest vigil at Yad Ya'ir, near the settlement of Dolev in Samaria, complied with the Army's request and left the site.

1 SLA Soldier Killed, 1 Wounded by Bomb

TA1701132592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was killed and another was seriously wounded in a bomb explosion at noon today on the border of the security zone.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the explosion occurred on the outskirts of the Shiite village of Rshaf. The bomb had been planted between an SLA and a UN position. Our correspondent has learned from UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] Headquarters that in the wake of the incident SLA artillery shelled terrorist positions in the vicinity of the Shiite village of Haddathah. Several villagers were wounded.

Foreign Minister Discusses Moscow Talks

JN1601134192 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir in Amman by unidentified reporter; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Abu-Jabir, how would you describe your talks with the Dutch foreign minister and former EC president?

[Abu-Jabir] They were very fruitful. We discussed bilateral issues between Jordan and Holland, both on the economic and political sides. As you know, the relationship between Jordan and the Netherlands has always been good. I think this visit strengthens the already very strong ties that tie our two nations. On the multilateral level, of course we discussed the most important topic that deals with our life right now, which is the peace process and where it is going and is it heading in the right direction or not.

[Reporter] Did the Dutch minister bring to you any new suggestions concerning the multilateral talks that are due to be held in Moscow?

[Abu-Jabir] Not really. We discussed mainly the peace process and the role we think that Holland can play. As you know, Holland, because of its very strong ties and relationship to Israel, has a great influence on the Israeli decision-makers and the Israeli public because of the traditional ties that it has had with the Israelis. So, I emphasized that point with his excellency the foreign minister, and I asked him to use his offices, good offices, to get the Israelis out of their ideological straitjacket and to start meaningfully and in reality move towards peace, and to stop any of the activities that they have indulged themselves in since the Madrid conference in putting obstacles in the peace path.

[Reporter] Vis-a-vis the invitation to attend the multilaterals in Moscow, has Jordan answered to this yet?

[Abu-Jabir] Not yet. We are still thinking about it. We wish to, or we actually [are] coordinating with our Palestinian brothers, and certainly we would like to hear what the Syrians in particular think about it and also the Lebanese. But our answer will be forthcoming and in good time.

[Reporter] The Dutch minister said that the EC will be taking a major role in cosponsoring the multilaterals [words indistinct]. How would you forecast this role, the EC role, in cosponsoring the multilaterals?

[Abu-Jabir] Well, I think it will be terrific for them. They are not actually cosponsoring, they are heading, along with the Japanese, the economic and social sides of the multilaterals. Issues that deal with water, the environment, economic cooperation as supposed eventually in the future and development of the area. This kind of thing.

[Reporter] Are we talking about two phases of the multilaterals?

[Abu-Jabir] Not two phases, but there will be two committees so to speak, if you wish, one which deals with the economic side like I said the water, refugees, and the other would deal with the security side.

[Reporter] Do you have any idea about the mechanism of the multilateral conference after the first two days in Moscow?

[Abu-Jabir] Not yet, because that will have to be worked out in Moscow itself. That is part of what we will be doing in Moscow.

[Reporter] So will it be procedural conference?

[Abu-Jabir] Yes, it is mostly our thinking, not our thinking but the thinking of the cosponsors, that it will be a negotiations about negotiations. How to structure the future negotiations, and what committees will be dealing with what issues, where, and how.

[Reporter] Have all the Arab parties agreed to attend the Moscow talks?

[Abu-Jabir] Today is the last day. We are listening to that like you are.

[Reporter] Thank you, sir.

'Arabiyat Stresses Support for Libya

JN1601184992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, returned to Amman this afternoon after attending an emergency session of the second conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], which concluded in the Libyan capital yesterday. Speaking to our news desk about the conference, Dr. 'Arabiyat said:

[Begin 'Arabiyat recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The meeting in Libya over the past two days was held to discuss the threats made against Libya by certain Western powers—the United States, France, and Britain—and relevant proceedings at the UN Security Council. The APU initiated the emergency session to discuss this matter in particular. All the Arab states with parliamentary houses were present, all joining in a real analysis of the anti-Libya postures. A distinction was drawn between penal crime and political action. A joint integrated statement was issued, and then specific decisions were passed, including one calling for the formation of Arab parliamentary delegations to tour member nations of the UN Security Council and other countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America. The idea is to set out the Libyan position and the justness of the Libyan case. There were other clear, coherent decisions, in which participants in the conference unanimously urged lending support to the Libyan stance as fair and correct, which all Arab and Islamic peoples and all pro-justice parties ought to do. We vigorously condemn this Western attitude toward sisterly Libya. It proved to be a successful session with adequate participation by all delegates, thanks be to God. The Jordanian and other Arab delegations stressed the need to stand by Libya and its equitable stand. [end recording]

Buwayz on Libyan Cooperation on Lockerbie Issue

NC1701134692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz met U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, British Ambassador David Tatham, and French Charge d'Affaires Jacques Courbin.

The British ambassador said that Buwayz was informed of measures the United Nations would take on the American plane crash over Lockerbie and that of the French plane over Niger. He added that Lebanon is concerned because there were Lebanese victims in the Lockerbie incident.

The U.S. ambassador would not answer a question about Lebanon's reserved stand on participation in the multilateral talks.

Minister Buwayz made the following statement: [begin recording] Naturally, Lebanon cannot support or sponsor any terrorist incident or action. Lebanon was international terrorism's first and main victim. From this standpoint, we believe that the subject must be submitted to the judiciary in a serious and fundamental manner. When matters clear up, Lebanon will adopt a straightforward stand.

The ambassadors of the United States, Britain, and France have asked the United Nations—or they may in the next few hours—that the UN Security Council adopt a resolution urging Libya to cooperate in the investigation. We encourage any cooperation which will arrive at the truth. [end recording]

UNIFIL Agrees To Army Deployment Plan

NC1501135392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], said that the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL have agreed on the deployment of the Lebanese Army in 10 southern villages in addition to the village of Tayr Dibbah. Goksel said that UNIFIL has sent a cable to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, informing him of the result of yesterday's meeting between Army Commander General Emile Lahhud and the UNIFIL command.

UNIFIL commander General Wahlgren and Brigadier General Fawwaz, commander of the Sidon military zone, met at the Sidon army barracks today and discussed field maps concerning the Army deployment plan.

Hizballah Leader Meets Prime Minster Karami

NC1701121392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Statement by Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi after meeting Prime Minister 'Umar Karami in Beirut on 14 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Musawi] [words indistinct] the main purpose of this meeting was to learn about government and state progress from his excellency the prime minister, particularly about the crucial issues in Lebanon and the region. Major and crucial issues include the resistance, and negligence in many parts of Lebanon. We concentrated on these two points and on those which we regard as crucial, particularly in terms of the danger which American arrogance and Israel's presence constitute in Lebanon, and Israeli agents' recent incursions, planting the American University and al-Bastah bombs. We learned that there is interest in the resistance, which, along with its weapons, is regarded as sacred. We agreed with his excellency the prime minister on this issue. We sensed that the prime minister believes there is a need to pay attention to the deprived areas and to provide them with the means to remain resolute in confronting the Israeli enemy and the difficult conditions they face. Thank God the meeting was successful.

We discussed the media and other issues. We felt that there is interest in maintaining freedom of information. Freedom of information and freedom in general are among this country's features. These must be safeguarded and made sacred. We learned that the prime minister is considering this issue. [passage omitted]

South Lebanese Army Shells Kafr Tibnit 16 Jan

NC1701072692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Last night the village of Kafr Tibnit came under heavy artillery shelling and sniper fire from the positions of the agent militia [South Lebanese Army] in al-Burj and 'Ali al-Tahir. Material damage was caused.

Israeli, SLA Forces Search, Interrogate Citizens

NC1601181692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] In the south, the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] have combed the valleys of Jisr al-Litani, Jisr al-Khardali, the olive groves in Dayr Yasin, and the al-Litani forests. The Israeli forces have besieged al-Tayyibah and Dayr Yasin in addition to Rshaf, which has been under siege for 17 days. The Israeli forces searched homes and interrogated citizens in these villages.

The SLA radio said that Israeli and SLA units dismantled three 107-mm rockets found near al-Tayyibah. The rockets were aimed at Israel.

U.S., EC Urged To Curb Israeli 'Intransigence'

JN1501151992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Ending the Aggression First," TISHRIN says: Israel's intransigent position, as demonstrated in the Washington talks, comes as no surprise. The Israeli delegation's constant evasion of the factors leading to a just and comprehensive settlement is completely in harmony with the nature of the Zionist entity, which is genuinely hostile to peace.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli delegation's evasion of substantive peace issues is by no means surprising. The Israelis did not go to Washington, and before that to Madrid, to make a just and honorable peace. They went there to sabotage the historic peace opportunity that appeared on the region's horizon. They did not go to solve the problem but to complicate things and to fan the flames of the crisis. They went to Washington to cover the aggressive, expansionist acts of Shamir's government and to divert attention from this government's crimes against Arab lands and citizens.

The paper adds: Shamir has unequivocally declared that the mission of the Israeli delegation is confined to the nonrelinquishment of the land of Israel, meaning the lands occupied by the Zionists in their repeated acts of aggression against the Arabs. The Israeli negotiators, therefore, are refusing to discuss the possibility of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the implementation of international resolutions on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

TISHRIN continues: While the Israeli negotiators in Washington are maneuvering with regard to discussing substantive issues, the Tel Aviv rulers do not waste a single minute and leave no avenue unexplored in bringing in hundreds of thousands of immigrants. They are going all out to build further settlements in the occupied Arab territories and to perpetuate the occupation and establish it as a fact.

Once again, says TISHRIN, this Israeli position is not surprising because it is in line with Israel's aggressive policy. What is really surprising, however, is the insistence of some parties on holding the multilateral and multifunctional talks at the end of this month irrespective of the outcome of the Washington talks. Insistence on these talks now, without linking them to substantial progress in the peace talks, will not serve the peace process at all, nor will it help to convince Israel to abandon its intransigent positions. On the other hand, the Tel Aviv rulers will view these talks as a reward for them. Such talks will enable them to come out of their current economic crisis and gain access to Arab wealth while still holding the occupied territories and denying the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Such a result will inevitably inflame the Israeli lust for aggression and prompt them to redouble their efforts toward building greater Israel.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Israel does not want peace. This is a fact not a hypothesis. Israel will not retreat from its aggressive, expansionist policies. This is another fact not a prediction. To make peace, one needs to deal with facts and realities. Therefore, if there is really a serious desire to extinguish the hotbed of tension in this region, then the obstacle to this—Israeli intransigence—should be removed and the resolutions of international legitimacy, which return rights to their owners and curb aggression and expansion, should be implemented. When a just and lasting peace is achieved, other issues, undoubtedly, will find their way to a solution.

Discussing the same subject, AL-BA'TH says: The peace process that began in Madrid and resumed in Washington provided the appropriate climate for ending tension in the region and, consequently, for putting things right and achieving a just and comprehensive peace. However, continued Israeli intransigence, or, indeed, Israeli defiance of international resolutions and legitimacy, will lead to further tension and instability in the region not the other way around. There is no doubt that this will reflect negatively not only on the region, but also on the entire world, given the special importance of our region.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Deterring Israel and forcing it to observe international resolutions and legitimacy is more than a pressing need now, not only to establish world credibility and legitimacy as means for settling international issues, but also to maintain world security and peace. The continuation of this Israeli policy certainly threatens the peace and security of the world. We do not think that it is in anyone's interest that the world is merely a jungle.

For its part, AL-THAWRAH says: It is no secret to anybody that the primary and basic reason for the failure accompanying the third and previous rounds of talks lies in Israel's intransigence. Israel insists on adopting delaying tactics and on discussing procedural issues whenever the Arab delegations insist on raising substantive issues related to the achievement of peace in the region.

The paper adds: All this prompts the Arabs, led by Syria, to strongly demand that the international community, especially the United States and the EC, shoulder its responsibility and play its basic and effective role in ending Israel's antipeace intransigence on the one hand, and encouraging all sides to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with Security Council resolutions, especially 242 and 338, on the other.

In another article, AL-THAWRAH stresses that the solution, and the only remaining option, which must be implemented as fast as possible to defuse tension, is to resort to means of pressure. The international community and the United States must shoulder their responsibilities in implementing the resolutions of world legitimacy and in forcing Israel to comply with the will of peace and to acknowledge Arab lands and rights. It is high time that they did this, given that things have come to a head.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Orders Return of Zaher Shah Property

BK1501011692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1833 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Kabul, Jan 14 (AFP)—President Najibollah issued a decree Tuesday ordering return of the properties of the family of former king Zaher Shah, taken over by the state some 13 years ago, officials said.

The presidential decree revoked a May 1978 decision nationalising the properties of the overthrown king's father Mohamed Nader Shah, uncles Shah Wali Khan and Mohammad Hashim, and his cousin, Mohammad Daoud, they said.

The decree came on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the national reconciliation policy launched by Najibollah's administration on January 15, 1987, aimed at the fighting between government troops and mojahedin resistance.

The officials in the Afghan capital said under the decree the properties of Zaher Shah would be restored to the legal heirs or their attorneys. The Afghan Foreign Ministry would help in the process of property restoration, they said.

Zaher Shah, living in exile in Rome since his overthrow in a military coup in 1973, was also stripped of his citizenship in the communist revolution five years later. However, Najibollah restored his citizenship in September 1991.

Najibollah's latest decision is seen here as part of his government's efforts to woo the ex-monarch to join the international peace efforts on Afghanistan.

Zaher Shah's participation in the peace moves would be crucial because several Afghan groups are considering him as the possible head for an interim government which would be set up before elections were held as part of a U.N.-sponsored peace package ending the 13-year-old civil war.

Council of Ministers Views National Situation

LD1401165692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The prime minister's press department reported to BAKHTAR that a routine session of the Council of Ministers was held today. The session was chaired by Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar. After assessing the country's political and economic situation, the Council of Ministers spoke about important national and international issues, the realization of the state economic and social development plan, the budget during the past nine months of the year ending on 20 March 1992, and a number of legal documents. The Council of Ministers made relevant decisions.

Opening the meeting, the prime minister spoke about the political and economic situation in the country and informed members of the government about recent developments, the state of contacts, meetings, talks, and international inclinations, and the measures taken by the United Nations toward speeding up the process of a political solution to the Afghan question. The prime minister mentioned the development of political, economic, and technical ties with neighboring countries and the improvement of relations with some other countries. [passage omitted] Stating the economic situation of the country and the measures taken by the Ministry of Commerce regarding the provision of wheat, cooking oil, sugar, and fuel for the year beginning on 21 March, and recalling the patriotic role played by investors in the private sector and tradesmen in importing primary goods, the prime minister gave information about fuel materials and wheat in the country's ports and stores. [passage omitted] He informed government members about measures singled out for the sale of idle equipment, vehicles, and precious stones in order to help enhance state revenue.

The prime minister said that the transport situation is not satisfactory. It is weak. Armed Forces ministers were instructed to implement additional measures for improvement of the security of highways, the strengthening of security posts, and removing the causes of complaints made by some drivers against responsible persons in some posts. The transport of wheat and other primary goods should be quickened by using armed forces vehicles. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister Gholam Mohaydin Shahbaz presented a detailed report to the ministers on the implementaion of the tasks and aims of the socio-economic plan for the year starting on 21 March, which was approved by the Council of Ministers. A discussion was conducted about the implementation of investment and planned indices in [word indistinct] and socio-economic sectors, on the development and economic schemes, and on the indices of various parts of the plan. They discussed shortcomings and shortfalls in the projects and the cuases for the shorfalls. [passage omitted]

Some proposals were also presented to the session on the planned fulfillment of projects and the improvement of the activities and manner of the projects of various sectors and of manufacturing and service firms. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Mohammad Hakim presented a report about a series of proposals on the results of the implementation of the state budget in the nine months of the current year, and estimates for the year starting on 21 March 1992. [passage omitted] The finance minister also presented a report on the first draft of next year's budget, the country's income, and expenses anticipated by the Ministry of Finance. [passage omitted] Discussion was conducted on the 31-point proposal about savings in expenses and income growth. Specific proposals were presented, which were approved by the session. Relevant decisions were made. The session of ministers termed positive the proceedings of the Ministry of Finance in connection with the implementation of the state budget in nine months of this year, especially with regard to

income tax and the increase in the income of customs and other financial sources. A resolution was passed about the proposals of the Ministry of Finance.

Justice Minister Gholam Mohaydin Darez presented a report on the draft amendments to Article 69 of the state employees law, [words indistinct] law, religious affairs workers bylaw's Article 3 and 4, and Article 5 of the Afghan National Bank Constitution. The ministers approved these after comprehensive discussion. [passage omitted]

Kabul Planning Increased Trade With Iran

BK1401150092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Kabul, Jan 14 (AFP)—Afghanistan is to step up trade contacts with Iran following signs of improving relations between Kabul and Tehran, reliable business sources said here Tuesday.

They said the unprecedented airlift of relief supplies from Tehran to Kabul on January 9 had been viewed by most businessmen here as an Iranian gesture of goodwill towards the government of President Najibollah.

Iranian diplomats here said the relief supplies were part of Tehran's humanitarian assistance to the poorest segment of the Afghan population.

Government officials confirmed that Kabul had discussed with Tehran prospects of buying Iranian petrol to ease a severe shortage here. Iranian Embassy sources said a delegation from Kabul had visited Iran in this connection.

A delegation of Iranian entrepreneurs also visited Afghanistan recently to study possibilities of launching an industry for the manufacture of agricultural equipment in Afghanistan.

The sources said a delegation from Afghanistan's Chambers of Commerce and Industries was to make a reciprocal visit to Iran this month when they would also discuss prospects of buying Iranian buses for Kabul's city transport service.

Afghanistan traditionally exported wool and cotton to Iran before trade was disrupted after the 1979 Soviet invasion. Traders here, however, said that in spite of 13 years of war, Afghan businessmen continued to enjoy good relations with their Iranian counterparts.

Bangladesh

Rahman Hopes For Negotiations on Burmese Border

BK1501162292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman has said the present elected government along with the people of the country will fight to the last to protect the geographic integrity and national sovereignty of Bangladesh. In a statement in Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this evening, he said the policy of peaceful coexistence followed by the government regarding the present border tension with Myanmar does not signify a subservient foreign policy. The foreign minister said the present problem with Myanmar [Burma] is not a new one. The same problem was created in 1978 and the BNP [Bangladesh National Party] government then solved it through peaceful negotiations with the Myanmar Government. He hoped that the present problem will also be solved through negotiation and it has been brought under control following the same policy. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman informed the house that the Myanmar foreign minister, Ohn Gyaw, is likely to visit Bangladesh in the first week of next month. [passage omitted on house proceedings]

India

Defense Minister Notes 'Openness' in U.S. Ties

BK1701032492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has indicated that India and the United States are moving toward an openness in relationship. In an exclusive interview to PTI in New Delhi, the minister expressed the hope that the present trend will enable experts to have a more meaningful interaction in various fields. Mr. Sharad Pawar said that Washington has taken note of Pakistan abetting terrorism in Kashmir. The defense minister, however, ruled out use of military option to tackle Pakistan's support to terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir.

Referring to the measures taken to prevent militants crossing and check drug trafficking, Mr. Sharad Pawar said 375 km of over 1,500-km-long border has already been fenced and work is on for fencing other areas.

Talking about the country's missile program, the defense minister said that work on the frontline missile Agni is progressing as per schedule.

Asked if the cut in the defense expenditure would lead to weakening of India's defense preparedness, Mr. Sharad Pawar asserted that this will not be compromised.

He said the government has also finalized new guidelines for defense exports.

Further on Defense Cooperation

BK1601161692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 16 (AFP)—Defence Minister Sharad Pawar said Thursday that India and the United States intended to usher in an era of defence cooperation and share more defence information with each other.

Washington and New Delhi are ready for "openness in the defence relationship" betwg the two countries, Pawar told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI).

"We are moving towards opening our forces and defence activities to each other as well as having tie-ups in our ambitious defence projects," he added.

Pawar said the Pentagon would collaborate in India's multi-million dollar Light Combat Aircraft project, which has yet to get off the ground because of technical problems.

The minister also said India's Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs would visit the United States in 1992. A U.S. defence delegation headed by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Frank Keslo will arrive here next week.

The "army-to-army talks" between the two countries were a result of recent "geopolitical changes," Pawar said, hinting that the disintegration of the Soviet Union had edged New Delhi closer to Washington.

"The changes have improved the security environment," he told PTI.

India and Washington have already agreed to step up military training exchange programs for the Army and the Navy as New Delhi desperately searches for alternative sources of military equipment, spares and training.

India has been concerned about possible military parts shortages because the Soviet Union had been its main defence supplier since its independence from the British in 1947.

Sources said the Pentagon is interested in India's high-altitude warfare training programs.

"The new turn in relations between the two countries had started with the visit to the U.S. last year by Chief of the Army Staff S.F. Rodrigues, which had led to more reciprocal visits," Pawar said.

India's million-plus Army, its giant armored corps, its Air Force and naval air arm have been hit by shortages of spares as neither Russia nor any of the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have formally pledged to re-stock the armed forces.

But Pawar said New Delhi saw no "obstacles" in getting more spares, and said he hoped a diplomatic delegation now in Moscow would succeed in obtaining a resumption of supplies.

There have been "positive signals" from the Russian leadership as well as from other members of the CIS that there were "no obstacles" to a resumption, Pawar said.

The visit by a 10-member Indian delegation headed by Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit will pave way for the defence minister to visit Russia and other members of the CIS, PTI said.

Russia and India finalised a fresh treaty Wednesday in Moscow to replace a 1971 Indo-Soviet friendship pact that committed the two countries to military and other cooperation.

News reports said the new document was a watered-down version of the original treaty which governed relations between the former Soviet Union and India.

The new treaty has not yet been officially unveiled, but officials here said the government was likely to comment on it after Dixit returns Friday from Russia.

Army 'Overstretched' in Countering Insurgency

BK1401090092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General S.S. Rodrigues, has said that the Army's invovement in internal security duties should be restricted to a supportive role and limited to the minimum possible duration.

In an interview to the armed forces weekly SAINIK SAMACHAR on Army Day today, General Rodrigues said that the Indian Army has been considerably "overstretched" in countering insurgency during the last few years. He praised the officers and men for their success in countering insurgency in Assam and Kashmir. He said that the proposal regarding the induction of women into the Army has been approved and it will be implemented within the shortest time frame.

Rao Scores Pakistan's 'Orchestration' on Kashmir

BK1601162992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister has criticized Pakistan for indulging in deliberate orchestration on Kashmir. In an interview to the Saudi English daily ARAB NEWS, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said so far as India is concerned, Kashmir is not a subject of dispute. He however added that if any settlement is needed, it should be worked out in the terms of the Simla agreement.

Referring to Pakistan's offer to have a political dialogue with India, the prime minister said Islamabad has been talking about friendship with India for a long time without doing anything concrete about it.

State To Give Russia 150 Million Rupees in Aid

BK1001161592 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1537 GMT 10 Jan 92

["Spokesman's Statement on Financial Aid by India to the Government of the Russian Federation, Dated 8th Jan 92"]

[Text] While briefing newmen, the spokesman said that attention of government has been drawn to the establishment of a commission for humanitarian and technical assistance by the government of the Russian Federation. The commission is to receive assistance from various sources and then to channel such assistance to those sections of the population that have been adversely affected by the dislocation in the economic activities following the recent political and economic changes in the former USSR.

The spokesman elaborated that keeping in view the traditionally warm, friendly and cooperative relationship, that has existed between India and the constituent members of the former USSR, prime minister has directed that the government of India would make as a gesture of friendship and in the tradition of mutual cooperation, a contribution to the Russian commission for humanitarian and technical assistance of the order of Rs. [rupees] 150 million. Terms governing this contribution will be determined in the near future. The amount would be used to supply urgently required items identified by the commission, i.e., baby food, rice and standard medicines, including sulphur drugs and antibiotics. Details will be worked out in the very near future. Indications however are that the humanitarian assistance would be utilised for distribution in the cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Sverdlovsk. The spokesman affirmed that government of India is also aware of the fact that, difficulties similar to those presently being experienced in the Russian Federation, may also arise in the other republics that constituted the former USSR. Following mutual consultations and discussions, government of India intends to make appropriate contributions of humanitarian assistance to the other republics as well, including those in the Central Asian region and the Ukraine.

The spokesman said that this is India's hope that the proposed humanitarian assistance would, to some extent, alleviate difficulties presently being faced by the people of the independent states that formerly constituted the USSR. Government's decision is indicative of the feeling of friendship of the people of India towards the peoples of the newly independent states of the former USSR.

Iran

President: Algerian Events 'Political Scandal'

LD1601173492 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—The president today termed the recent developments in Algeria as a "political scandal and disgrace" for the self-styled supporters of human rights and democracy.

"Algeria presents a historical test, where the supporters of freedom and democracy failed and are really disgraced," noted Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He was critical of the double standards of the Western mass media and advised it to have the courage to "state frankly that they don't want democracy for the Muslim and independent people who oppose (global) arrogance, which in itself is a scandal, or should express the medieval idea that people should always be subjected to the ideas of a few persons."

The president wondered "how the Western media which claims to be the heralds of freedom, can justify their moves for their readers?"

He noted that although the media horns of arrogance were engaged in massive and coordinated propaganda to break the morale of the Algerian muslims prior to last December's parliamentary polls, they could not succeed, and the Muslim people of Algeria foiled their attempts by sweeping the first round of the general elections.

The president was speaking to relatives and friends of martyr Mojtaba Navvab Safavi, the founder of the Jamiat-e Fedayeen Eslam (Society of the Devotees of Islam), on the occasion of his matyrdom anniversary.

He stressed that the glory of Islam has been revived in the Islamic lands, and said that the Muslim people in what was once the Soviet Union, after three generations of Marxist suppression, will now vote for Islamic sovereignty because of their Islamic roots.

Majles Speaker Scorns Global Silence on Algeria

LD1601193992 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Mahdavi Karrubi today blasted international circles and the so-called pro-democracy countries for their silence towards the suspension of parliamentary elections in Algeria.

Speaking at the open session of the Majles, Karrubi expressed hope that Algerian authorities would exercise caution in dealing with the "logical demands of the Algerian people" and that no "catastrophic incidents" would take place in that country.

A five member Presidency Council took control of Algeria from President Chadli Bendjedid who resigned last week following the landslide victory of the Islamic Salvation Front in the first round of parliamentary elections.

Later in the session, a letter signed by Majles deputies was read deploring the human rights violation and negligence of people's will in Algeria.

The letter called on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to seriously propound the wish of the Algerian people at international and regional circles.

It pointed out that neither global arrogance nor the regional reaction was able to suppress the wishes of Algerian Muslims.

Press Reviews Algerian Developments

LD1601201992 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—The major morning dailies Thursday continued to editorialize on the ongoing development in Algeria saying that Islam and the Islamists are the ultimate winners.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI wrote that by cunningly selecting members of the new collective presidency, the culprits plan to put the Army against the nation and create confrontation and bloodshed so as to

justify the eventual massacre of the people by the Army under the pretext of preserving stability.

In Algeria democracy and popular vote have been trampled upon by a group of culprits who did not have the guts to accept their defeat in the election.

The hostile stands of the West and imperialist and Zionist mass media against the Algerians speak of West's fright from the awakening of Muslim nations. The West is fully aware that once nations inspired by Islam are awakened they will dissociate themselves from the West and replace western decadent culture with the Islamic values.

The West is panicked by losing grip over Algeria and losing the means to plunder the wealth and properties of the Algerian people once the Islamists, the true representatives of the nation, take over.

Furthermore, it is preoccupied by the fact that the victory of the Algerians will set an example for other Muslims to follow.

The fear of the ruling Algerian party from the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) reveals how far the present rulers have deviated from the Algerian revolution. The revolution with the motto of 'Allah-o Akbar' (God is the greatest) defeated the French colonialism by giving one million martyrs.

According to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI a confrontation of the people and the Army is inevitable and there are strong indications that the coup will be defeated. This likelihood prompted the U.S. and France to hastily support the coup but softened once met with resistance of the Islamic and popular forces. Now they have retreated to the policy of neither supporting the government nor the people since they are pleased with the present rulers.

The other Persian daily ABRAR wrote that the Algerians were stunned by the Western double standard adopted towards the first free multiparty elections in Algeria.

The editorial added that after several decades of absolute rule by the National Liberation Front, the Algerian democracy was nipped in the bud.

The cancellation of the second round of elections in which FIS was sure to win, proves the falsity of the claims of the West and its support for democracy and majority vote.

The Muslim nation of Algeria will continue to tread on the path they have chosen with full knowledge having before them the experience of the Islamic Revolution in Iran which proved Islam is able to outmaneouver tanks and troops.

The editorial in the English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL titled "Time will tell on Algeria's generals wrote that the surprise resignation of ex-President Chadli Bendjedid was the work of the three generals now members of the new collective presidency. [no closing quotation marks as received]

According to the daily, Bendjedid's crime was that "he was serious about the democratization of Algerian political life.... He had accepted the idea that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was destined to sweep to a large majority in the national legislative assembly and was prepared For 'cohabitation' with the Islamists until presidential elections in 1993."

The editorial cast doubt whether the coup leaders "know what to do with their newly usurped powers. How will they dare hold elections when they fully realize that the FIS will not go away?" "Algeria's new Junta has certainly gotten off to an inauspicious start. Time is not likely to improve their progress.... If a politics of choice does emerge in Algeria, it will be dominated by the Islamists," KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL concluded.

Commentary Views Problems Facing Peace Talks

LD1601230192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] With the third round of Washington talks coming to an end Wednesday afternoon, the result of the parleys show that this round too, similar to the previous ones, has faced many problems. The previous round of the negotiations which confronted some Israeli obstacle too, had proved abortive. In the previous rounds the Israelis, refusing to discuss main issues (?sought) by the Arabs, namely UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and not agreeing to negotiate with the Palestinian team separately, virtually stalemated the parleys. But in the latest round of the talks, which had opened in the U.S. State Department last Monday, the Israeli side, based on an agreement with joint Jordanian-Palestinian team, negotiated with each of them in two subcommittees comprising a Palestinian team having nine Palestinians and two Jordanians and a Jordanian team including nine Jordanians and two Palestinians. At the same time the Israeli team's talk with Syria brought new results and the Syrian representative, at the end of the negotiations, declared the peace talks have not begun yet and the Israelis are merely looking for a suitable venue for continuing the parleys in the Middle East in a place close to the region. But the trend of the talks held so far indicates that the objectives of America and Israel and continuing the talks are different from the Arab's demand, which is to settle the Middle East problem.

The normalization of the Arab-Israeli relation was one of the tricks which was resorted to by America through convening the peace conference in Madrid and (?its) subsequent sessions in Washington. But one of these efforts aimed at normalizing ties between the Arabs and Israel is the Zionist regime's demand for holding the fourth round of negotiations in the Middle East. The Israelis have proposed that the next round of the parleys be held either in Syria or Bayt al-Moqaddas [Jerusalem].

Evidently the Middle East is not considered a secure place for the Zionists to continue the talks, but the Zionist regime's insistence in this regard is in taking the issue to a direction where it, by drawing the Arabs to the occupied lands, especially the occupied Bayt al-Moqaddas, and by disgracing them, may, in its own view, pave the way for a normalization of its ties with the Arab states. But what goal does this desire for normalization of relations pursue is a question whose answer should be traced in the inaugural speech of George Bush at the mid-week conference. In that speech, the U.S. President stressed that the talk between the Arabs and Israel should not be limited to the issue of nonaggression between them but both sides should promote ties in many spheres such as diplomatic and commercial relations, and that's meant cultural exchanges, trade, and even the exchange of tourists.

Among the issues mooted by the U.S. President, this point was quite evident that breaking the psychological apprehension under presence of Israel in regional transactions was given great significance. [sentence as heard]

At any rate, parallel to the latest round of the talks, the occupied lands were turned into a scene [of] bloody clashes and anti-Zionist acts. The presence of Palestinian youths on the scene of combat with Israel proves the fact that negotiations at any time with the Zionist regime have no relationship whatsoever with the Islamic world and the oppressed Palestinian nation because the peace and stability which are established with the continued presence of the Zionist entity will not last due to the previous record and aggressions by that regime.

Editorial Comments on 'Pan-Turkism' Trend

NC1601085492 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 2 Jan 92 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Turkey: Eyes on Central Asia"]

[Excerpts] It has been said that the internal departments of the Turkish Foreign Ministry have been revamped in accordance with current regional and international developments and a new department has been created to cater to the newly-arisen needs.

This department has been given the responsibility of coordinating Turkish policy on the Turkish-speaking republics of the former Soviet Union that are not part of the nascent commonwealth. Another department has been delegated the task of organizing the special relationship between Turkey and the United States.

So far, this is not a startling development. It is expected that every country will act according to its own national interests and foreign policy. The discussion here, however, is on how Turkey is casting a glance on the Turkish-speaking republics and its implications in the international lexicon.

The fact is that pan-Turkism exists in Turkey and is fanned by the flames of various political factions. This can be justified in its initial phases within Turkey, but when it crosses the country's boundaries it cannot be justified, particularly because Turkish nationalism is being pitched against Islamicism in the region. This cannot benefit any of the regional countries. [passage omitted]

Central Asia has a long road to traverse to regain its true identity. The speed of developments in the former Eastern bloc and Soviet Union was so unexpected that internationally recognized larger countries could not surmount the domestic crises generated by these fast-paced developments.

Nationalistic strife among the republics of the former Soviet Union itself highlights some of the existing apprehension, which could prove really dangerous in the presence of a catalytic agent.

This applies especially to the differences with Armenia on the issue of Karabakh in Azerbaijan, which has caused irrevocable losses and become the most sensitive conflict in the region.

It is not known which power-seeking faction will gain from provoking nationalistic sentiments in these sensitive regions. Currently, Central Asia and the Republic of Azerbaijan are in dire need of economic cooperation and bonding with the Islamic world more than ever, because the power structure and these republics' former links with Moscow were such that they were prevented from attaining a self-sufficient economy.

When these republics begin acting within these newly-created circumstances and on the basis of their own national interests, they will face problems and obstacles that can only be resolved by a realistic approach to and effective cooperation with the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

Thus, the expectations that Azerbaijan and the Central Asian republics can have from the Islamic countries are based on assistance in changing their economic structure, which was formerly based on a single commodity but is now quite unsuitable in the face of the current circumstances. By identifying these republics' domestic economic resources and giving them Muslim expertise and guidance, these republics can be motivated to diversify their agricultural production and assess their industrial possibilities and existing resources. This will assist in their development and expansion and, in the long term, will result in assistance to the Muslim nations of the region in their efforts to safeguard their political and economic independence.

The importance of the above analysis lies in the fact that the industrial world, and the United States in particular, has already focused its glance on this untouched region and has seen the potential for expanding its market and its control, for which it has already envisaged an extensive program.

Many perceptive individuals who view Turkey's actions in the U.S. perspective propound the possibility that the

United States is seeking to create, with Turkey's assistance, a new bloc based on ethnic divisions in one of the most sensitive regions of the world, hoping to ensure its longterm benefits with regard to the PRC, the Islamic world and Russia.

If such an analysis is factual, then the changes in the Turkish Foreign Ministry should be taken seriously and considered in a separate context from Turkish domestic policy and the Turkish Foreign Ministry's interorganizational policies.

Two Oil Workers Executed Following Strike

TA1501205892 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] In the wake of the strike and protest demonstrations by the Kermanshah oil refinery workers, a number of workers have been arrested by the regime's agents. According to the latest report, at 2000 on 13 January the regime's hangmen executed two workers, who are cousins, at Kermanshah's Dizelabad prison.

Pakistan

Dispute With France Over Nuclear Deal Settled

BK1301164592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1609 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 (AFP)—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday revealed that France and Pakistan have settled a 13-year-old financial dispute over cancellation of a nuclear deal by Paris.

France has agreed to pay 600 million francs (about 118 million dollars) as compensation for not honoring its promise to supply a nuclear reprocessing plant to Pakistan in 1978, Sharif said.

He told AFP that Pakistan wants to buy two squadrons of 44 Mirage-2000 jets from France and that a financial package was being mutually worked out, adding that the compensation money from France would be available for defence deals.

Pakistan wants to expand defence cooperation with France "in all fields, army, navy and air force," he said on the eve of a five-day visit to France.

Describing his visit as "very important," Sharif said agreement on the compensation had been largely settled with France. "There is no ancilliary problem attached to it now."

Sharif said a 900-megawatt nuclear power plant French President Francois Mitterrand offered during his visit to Pakistan two years ago "remains a priority."

Pakistan concluded a deal with China on the supply of a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant, shortly before Sharif's visit to France. But Sharif said the Chinese plant, even with a Canadian-supplied nuclear plant at Karachi, "do not meet our ever-growing energy requirements."

"We need much more than the capacity that is already there or the one which is coming from China," he added.

Asked if Pakistan had lost hope of a resumption of some 600 million dollars in annual U.S. military and economic assistance that Washington froze in October 1990 over Pakistan's nuclear policy, Sharif said "we have not abandoned the idea of resuming the aid."

But he said Pakistan found it difficult to get the U.S aid revived by meeting the Pressler amendment, which bans assistance to countries pursuing a weapon-oriented nuclear programme.

"We have in fact spoken to the United States about what Pakistan's point of view is," he said referring to Islamabad's objections to unilateral application of the legislation and its insistence on including India in South Asia's nuclear non-proliferation pact.

He said France had been one of Pakistan's major suppliers of armament.

"I think we regard France as one of the most reliable sources of defence equipment," said the prime minister, who appeared confident of achieving positive results from his visit.

Wearing the traditional Pakistani dress of shalwar-Kamiz, a long shirt and baggy trousers, and a black jacket, Sharif laughed when asked if Pakistan was using France to apply pressure on Washington.

"That's not true. We are not using France as a pressure tactic, there is no truth in that," he added.

Pakistan, he said, was also "making payments to the United States" for some 60 multi-roll F-16 aircraft Washington had agreed to deliver.

"We do believe that the F-16s would be supplied to Pakistan at the same time we would like to have two squadrons of Mirage 2000," he added.

He said Pakistan and France have to sort out "a lot of technical details" on the Mirage deal. In this context he mentioned the question of price and the financial package issue which observers believe could figure in his talks with French leaders.

Relations With U.S. 'Riding Rough Weather'

BK1501160692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] A spokesman said the history of close and friendly ties between Pakistan and the United States is very long, but, these days, due to various perceptions over the nuclear issue, these relations are riding rough weather. The spokemsan said Pakistan always wanted to work for promoting friendly ties based on mutual respect with the United States. But simultaneously, we are also determined to safeguard our independence, sovereignty, and self reliance. Referring to Senator Larry Pressler's statements published in the Indian press, the spokesman said they are a

matter of concern to the government and the people of Pakistan. Briefing newsmen about it, the spokesman said Pressler's visit was a private one and his views do not reflect those of the U.S. administration. The spokesman said that during his meeting with the Pakistani Ambassador Syeda Abida in Washington, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Eagleburger reiterated that the views of the U.S. senators on Pakistan are their personal ones. During his meeting with the Pakistani leaders in Islamabad, the U.S. senator was briefed on the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program and was told that Pakistan is strongly committed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this connection, he was also briefed on the prime minister's proposal made in June last and several other earlier proposals. All these were marred by the stubbornness of India. He was categorically told that Pakistan is not interfering in occupied Kashmir or Punjab in any way.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan does not have any nuclear weapons and hence the question of giving up the nuclear capability does not arise at all. In reply to yet another question on Senator Pressler's allegation on setting up of an Islamic bloc, the spokesman said Pakistan has welcomed the independence of Central Asian states and we are willing to establish friendly relations with these states. He said our relations with these states are not against any country, but they will be in the interest of peace, stability, and development of our region.

Prime Minister on Algeria, Fundamentalism, Bhutto

BK1301164692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1644 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 (AFP)—Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif told AFP on Monday that he regretted the cancellation of elections in Algeria, and rejected suggestions that his government is under the influence of Islamic radicals.

"As you are waiting, I am also waiting anxiously to see the results of the cancellation of the elections," he said in an interview the day before his departure for an official visit to France.

"I think that if elections are held, anything which comes as a result of the elections has to be accepted by the country itself and also by the outer world," he said.

Asked if Islamic fundamentalism represented a threat to democracy in Algeria and other Moslem countries, Sharif rejected the thinking behind the question.

"There is no concept of fundamentalism in Islam," he replied. "You are a Moslem or you are not a Moslem. We also believe in basic human values as any good human being does. So I don't know from where this terminology of fundamentalism has come."

As for Pakistan, an Islamic republic of 115 million people, Sharif said his governmental alliance had "the support of religious parties" but was "not under the influence of any radicals or any extremists."

For example, Sharif added, "Look at our privatisation program ... I am taking it forward with greater speed.

"We are moving towards a free market economy to which a lot of forces are against."

"Shariat," or Islamic religious law, was implemented throughout Pakistan by Sharif's government last year, in what the prime minister described as a "responsible" and "moderate" way.

"Shariat has been meaningful," he said. "It does not (pander) to any form of extremism and therefore it probably responds to much larger consensus than would have been the case otherwise."

On the subject of his difficult relationship with opposition leader and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who has claimed to be the victim of a campaign of political oppression by his government, Sharif said he was willing to work with her.

"We want the opposition to play its role in the parliament and also outside the parliament," said Sharif, adding that he is ready to meet Bhutto.

"She is most welcome. She is leader of the opposition. I respect her and I would always be ready to welcome her."

Sharif, 42, led his Islamic Democratic Alliance to power in national elections in October 1990, after Bhutto was removed from power by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

PRC Military Group Meets Joint Staff Head

BK1301142292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] A Chinese goodwill delegation led by Lieutenant General Wang Ke called on General Shamim Alam Khan, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at the Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi today. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

India's Allegation of Terrorism Rejected

BK1501154492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Pakistan has categorically rejected Indian allegation that it is supporting terrorist activities in Indian state of Punjab and interfering in occupied Kashmir. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while commenting on Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's interview with the KHALEEJ TIMES. In this interview, the Indian prime minister has allegedly said that the Kashmir problem is a kind of terrorism being abetted from across the border and that Pakistan's support in Kashmir and Punjab is not an imaginary thing but a reality. The spokesman said that compared to Punjab, which is an Indian territory, occupied Kashmir is a disputed territory. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are waging a struggle to achieve their fundamental right of self-determination as promised by the UN Security Council, and, hence, the struggle of the Kashmiris cannot be branded as terrorism. In fact, it is the Indian forces which

are indulging in terrorism in Kashmir and which have killed thousands of innocent Kashmiris, set fire to a large number of properties, molested women, and committed torture and violence against Kashmiris during the past two years.

The spokesman said Pakistan will continue to extend moral, diplomatic and political support to the struggle of the Kashmiri people. He added that Pakistan has asked India over and over again to stop trampling upon the human rights of the Kashmiri people. The spokesman described as totally false and misleading the Indian prime minister's alleged statement that India is ready for a dialogue with Pakistan, but it should take place under the framework of the Simla agreement which, according to him, does not contain any reference to the Kashmir problem. The spokesman drew attention to paragraph number six of the Simla agreement, which clearly states that the Jammu and Kashmir issue is an outstanding issue between India and Pakistan, which needs to be resolved. The clause number one of the Simla agreement also refers indirectly to the Kashmir dispute, saying that the basic problems and causes of the dispute—which has been the source of tension in bilateral relations for the past 25 years—should be resolved peacefully.

West European Reportage on Nawaz Sharif Visit

WA1701145892

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to France, including reports on his talks with Prime Minister Edith Cresson, please see the France section of the 16 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Receives Message From Iranian President

LD1501231992 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran Jan. 15, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'ddin Borujerdi, currently visiting Colombo, told Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa today that Tehran was interested in strengthening ties with Colombo, The Sri Lankan national news agency 'LANKAPUVATH' reported.

It said Borujerdi also submitted President Premadasa a message from his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rasfanjani in which the latter conveyed the good wishes of the Iranian people and government for the government and people of Sri Lanka. Borujerdi lauded Sri Lanka for its recent opposition at the United Nations to the repeal of U.N. "Zionism is racism" resolution. Borujerdi was also quoted as saying at the meeting that a team of Iranian experts was due in Colombo soon to study Iran's participation in a project for extending railway tracks from Batticaloa to Pottuvil in eastern Sri Lanka.

He invited the Sri Lankan president, on behalf of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to pay an official visit to Tehran, LANKAPUVATH said. According to the news agency, Borujerdi had separate meetings in the Sri Lankan capital today with Trade and Commerce Minister A.R.M. Mansoor and Minister of State for Religious Affairs A.H.M. Azwer.

Premadasa Responds to Message

NC1601132392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania handed Sri Lankan President Premadasa a written message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Colombo yesterday. In the message, the president expresses the Islamic Republic's admiration for the principled policy and the just Sri Lankan Government's decision to close the Colombo office in charge of the interests of the regime occupying Jerusalem and its no vote on a UN resolution repealing the resolution equating racism with Zionism.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani notes that the friendly historic and cultural relations between Iran and Sri Lanka will lead to efforts for expanding Tehran-Colombo ties.

Thanking Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his message, Premadasa said: All countries with independence-seeking stances and especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka should expand their relations. The expansionist policies of the regime occupying Jerusalem after the abrogation of the resolution equating racism with Zionism have proven that the countries which voted against repealing this resolution have acted correctly, he concluded.